

Fruits Basket

SHOGAKU
SHINSHU
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The #1 selling
shojo manga
in America!



17

Shojo Manga

Fruits Basket™

Volume 17



Natsuki Takaya

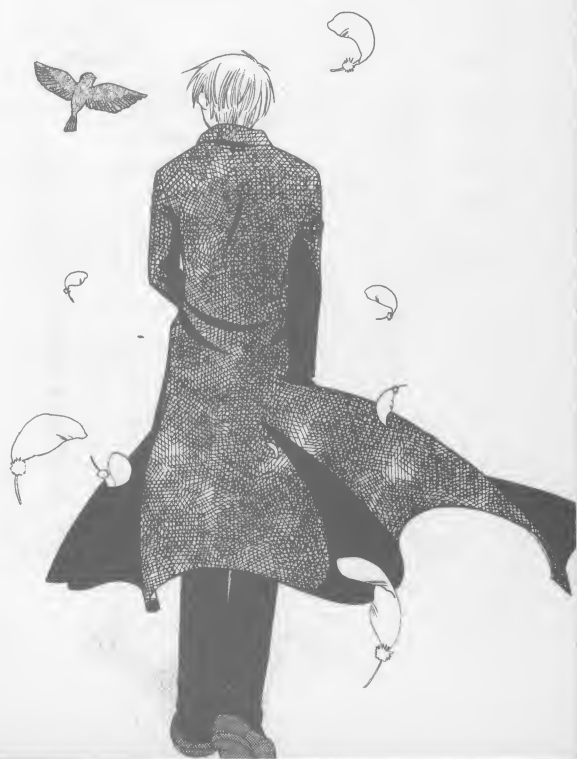
Fruits Basket™

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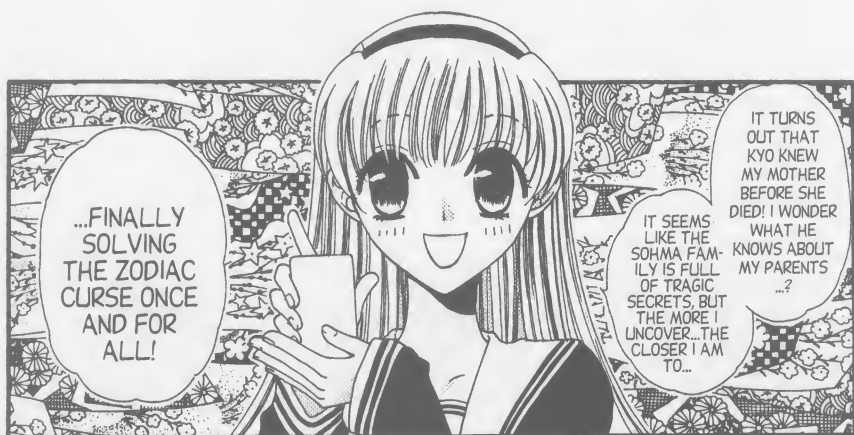
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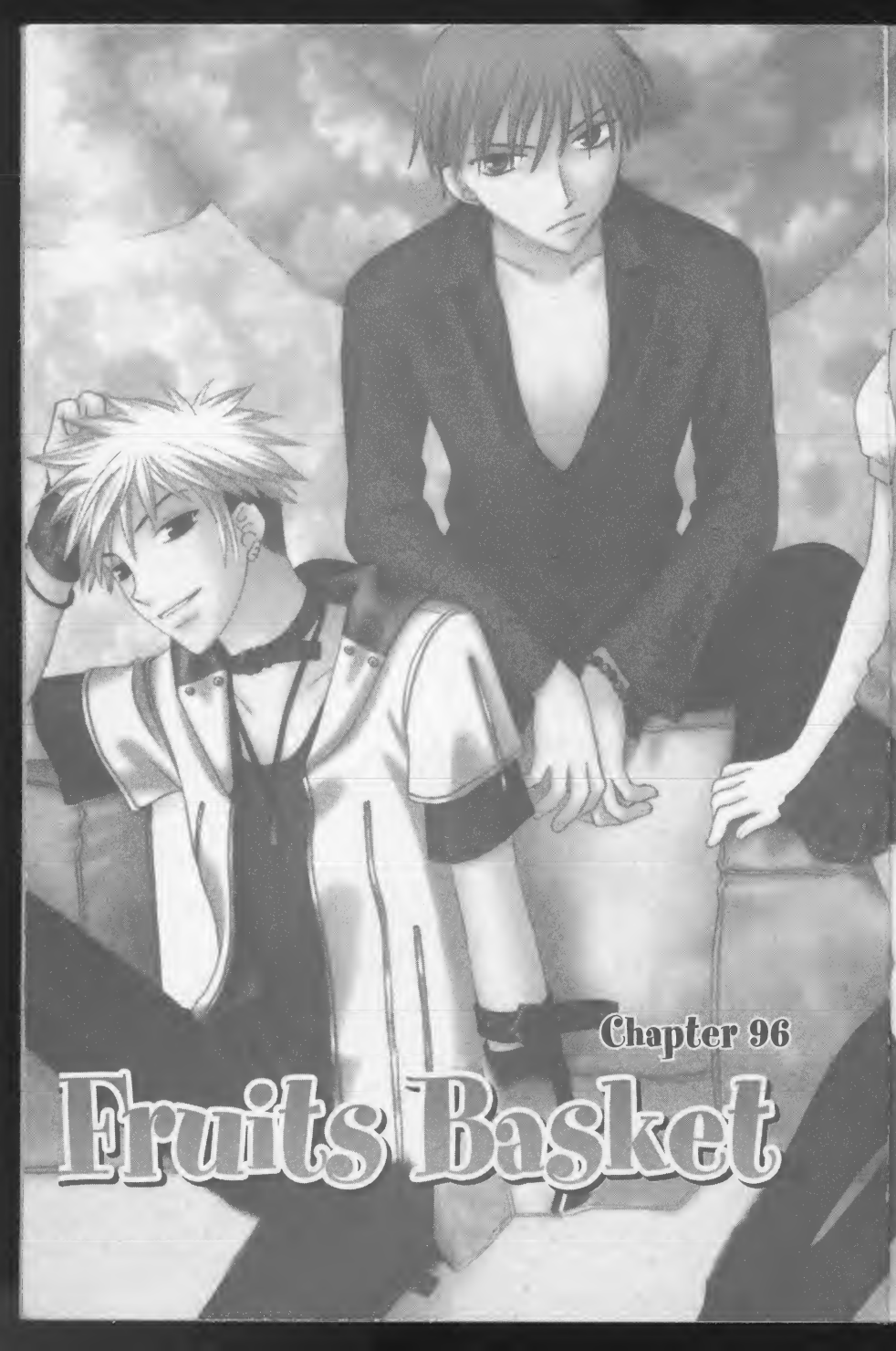


STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!







Chapter 96

Fruits Basket

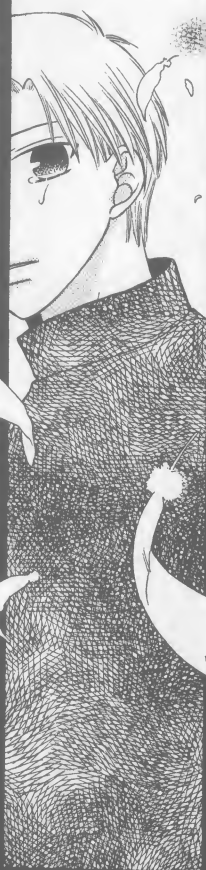
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...AND A
CAGE.

A
LIBER-
ATION...



IT CAME
ALL TOO
QUICKLY.

AN END
AND A
BEGINNING.



YOU'RE
STILL NOT
FEELING
WELL,
AKITO?



COME
CLOSER.



BE
CLOSER
TO ME.



KURENO.

I'M
COLD...

KURENO...



"BECAUSE
YOU'RE
INFERIOR."

YOU KNOW
THAT I
DON'T
MEAN IT.

YOU
KNOW
THAT,
DON'T
YOU?

...YES.

KURENO.

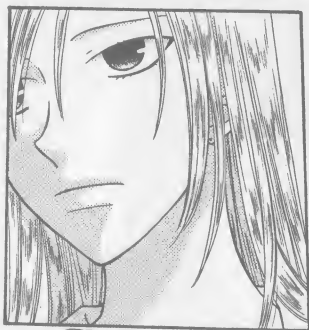
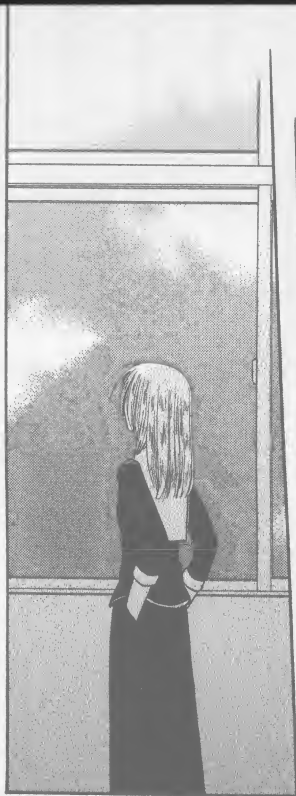
BUT YOU
KNOW THAT I
KNOW THAT
I'M SAYING
NASTY
THINGS,
RIGHT?

KURENO.

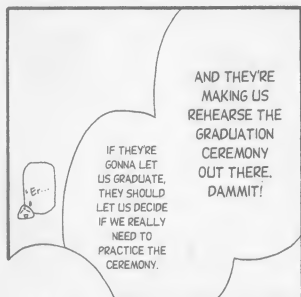
I KNOW I
SAY NASTY
THINGS
ABOUT YOU
SOMETIMES.

YOU'LL
ALWAYS
BE...

...BY MY
SIDE,
RIGHT?



YES.



AND THEY'RE
MAKING US
REHEARSE THE
GRADUATION
CEREMONY
OUT THERE.
DAMMIT!

IF THEY'RE
GONNA LET
US GRADUATE,
THEY SHOULD
LET US DECIDE
IF WE REALLY
NEED TO
PRACTICE THE
CEREMONY.

JUST
PLAY
ALONG.



IF I CATCH A
COLD FROM
PLAYING ALONG,
I'M GONNA BE
PISSED.



WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?

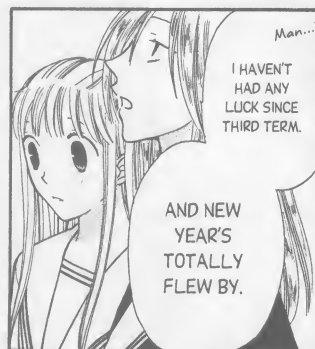
MM? OH,
Y'KNOW.

THE SKY'S
SO BLUE,
BUT IT'S
SO COLD
OUTSIDE.



OH--OF
COURSE!

HURRY
INSIDE,
WILL
YOU?



Man...
I HAVEN'T
HAD ANY
LUCK SINCE
THIRD TERM.

AND NEW
YEAR'S
TOTALLY
FLEW BY.



Hee
hee.

INCIDENTALLY,
I'VE NEVER
ONCE HAD ONE
OF THOSE.

IT'S TRUE
THAT IDIOTS
CAN'T CATCH
COLD.

THAT
SHOULD
BOTHER
YOU.



A LOT.

IT
DOESN'T
MAKE
SENSE.



NEW
YEAR'S...

A LOT
HAPPENED
BACK
THEN.



WELL....
THEN
MAYBE
SHISHOU-
SAN LAYED
YOU DOWN?

IMPOSSIBLE.

IF ANYONE
CAME, AND
ESPECIALLY
IF THEY
TOUCHED ME,
I WOULD'VE
WOKEN UP.



WHEN I
WOKE UP
TODAY, I
WAS LYING
DOWN.

I'M SURE
I FELL
ASLEEP
SITTING
UP.

What?!

Y-YOU FELL
ASLEEP
SITTING UP?!

Fruits Basket 17

Pleased to meet you and hello. This is Takaya, presenting Volume 17. The cover is Hana-chan!

...Somehow it's been no time at all. I feel like time's passing by very quickly these days; I don't know if it's because I'm pushing forward or if it's because of my age. There are a lot of games on sale that I want to play, too, but I don't have the time, so I feel like they're piling up...

There may be people who think, "If you're not going to play it now, buy it later!" but I want to have it on hand. (How can I say what I mean here?) So that someday, when I have time, I can start playing. I wonder if anyone can understand that feeling (laugh).

Well then, please enjoy Furuba 17!



WHO
TOLD
YOU?!
WHO?!

HUH?!

WH-
WHO?

Um...

Ah!

MAYBE THIS
IS WHAT
THEY CALL
"WOMAN'S
INTUITION"?!

YOU DON'T
LOOK LIKE
YOU'D BE
ENDOWED WITH
SOMETHING
THAT GREAT.



WHEN
THEY WERE
TALKING
EARLIER, IT
MADE ME
WONDER.

AND I JUST
BLURTED
IT OUT
BEFORE
THINKING.

Er...
That
is...
I MEAN...



HONDA-
SAN?

Knock
Knock



LOOK,
NEVER
MIND.

JUST DON'T
MENTION
THAT NAME
AGAIN.



WE
ALREADY
BROKE UP.



NO, OF
COURSE
NOT!

surprised



HERE
YOU--

I'M
SORRY.
DID I...

OH.



THIS?
OH, IT'S
FINE.

WHAT
HAPPENED?!

I
JUST...



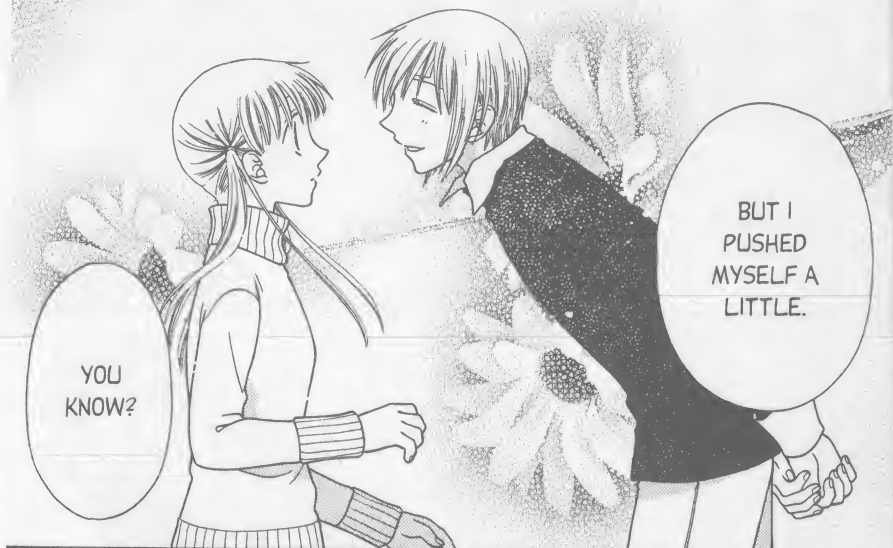
I CAME
TO WISH
YOU A
HAPPY
NEW
YEAR.

HERE'S
TO
ANOTHER
YEAR
WITH
YOU.

YES! AND
THE SAME
TO YOU!



B-BUT, YUKI-
KUN! YOUR
FOREHEAD--
IT'S HURT!







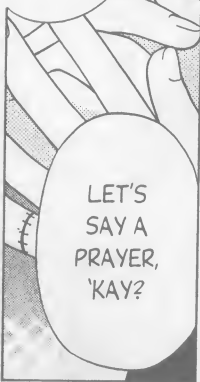
I GAVE
IT TO
HIM.

I GAVE
KURENO
THE DVD.



TH-
THANK...

TOHRU.



LET'S
SAY A
PRAYER,
'KAY?



WHEN I
GAVE IT
TO HIM, MY
HEART WAS
POUNDING.



BUT
STILL.

I'M GLAD
I COULD
MAKE SURE
HE GOT IT.



...REACH
KURENO-
SAN.

TOHRU?

WHAT'VE YOU
BEEN DOING
THIS WHOLE
TIME?

If you
wanna
ask me
a favor,
just
ask.



Ack!

NO, UM,
WELL...



Y-YES!

LET'S
GET GOING
SOON, YOU
TWO.



LET'S PRAY
THAT HE'LL
WATCH IT.

PLEASE.

LET UO-
CHAN'S
FEELINGS...

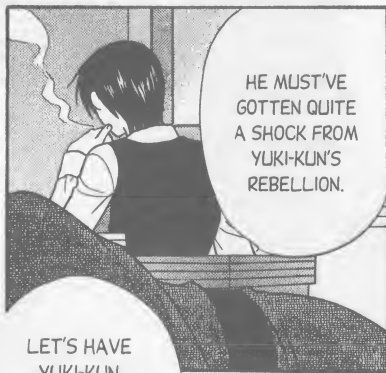


AND HER
LOVE.

AS PER THE
USUAL, HIS
EMOTIONS
ARE MAKING
HIM SICK.

...HE'S
BEEN
LYING
IN BED.

EVER
SINCE
NEW
YEAR'S...



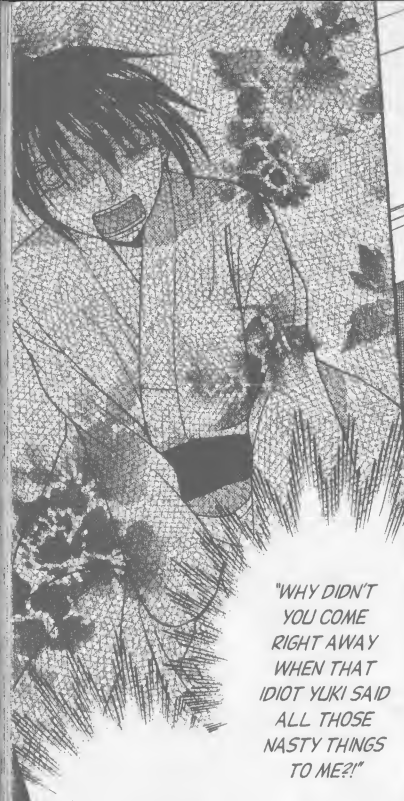
HE MUST'VE
GOTTEN QUITE
A SHOCK FROM
YUKI-KUN'S
REBELLION.

LET'S HAVE
YUKI-KUN
DO THE
NURSING--IT'S
ONLY FAIR.

DON'T BE
STUPID.



BUT IT'S
LINGERING
A LITTLE
LONGER
THIS TIME.




"WHY DIDN'T
YOU COME
RIGHT AWAY
WHEN THAT
IDIOT YUKI SAID
ALL THOSE
NASTY THINGS
TO ME?!"

"WHY ARE
YOU LIKE
THAT?!"

"WHY DON'T
YOU EVER
CHOOSE ME
FIRST?!"

IT'S SO
HYPOCRITICAL.




I THOUGHT
THAT WAS
WHY YOU CAME
HERE TODAY.

WHAT ABOUT
YOU? AREN'T
YOU GOING TO
SEE HIM?



BUT HE GOT
MAD AND
TURNED ME
AWAY AT
THE GATE.

I
TRIED.



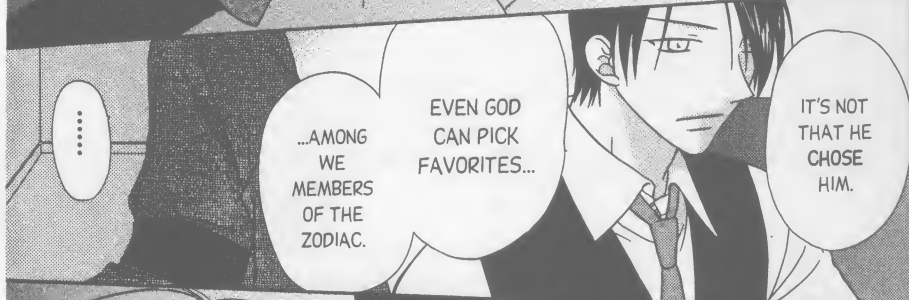
DIDN'T LIKE
MY ATTITUDE,
APPARENTLY.

"WHY?"



HE'S
THE
ONE...

...WHO
CHOSE
KURENO.



...AMONG
WE
MEMBERS
OF THE
ZODIAC.

EVEN GOD
CAN PICK
FAVORITES...

IT'S NOT
THAT HE
CHOSE
HIM.



THERE'S
SOMETHING
NOT RIGHT
ABOUT HIM.

C'MON,
HATORI.

WITH
KURENO.

NONE OF
YOU HAVE
EVER
FELT IT?



YOU'RE
DUCKING
UNDER
THIS ONE.

HE...

I MEAN,
HE
MIGHT
BE...

.....

I DON'T
WANT YOU
TELLING
ME THAT
I'M NOT
FAIR.

SAD?

IS IT
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
AFRAID?

Ha ha.

YOU'RE
RIGHT. I'M...
WAIT.


I SAID THIS TO
SOMEONE BEFORE.
WHO WAS THAT?
AND DOES IT
MATTER?

Whoever it was.

THAT'S
NOT FAIR.

TO THE
"BOND," I
MEAN.

BECAUSE YOU
CAN HATE IT
BUT NOT LET
GO OF YOUR
ATTACHMENT
TO IT?



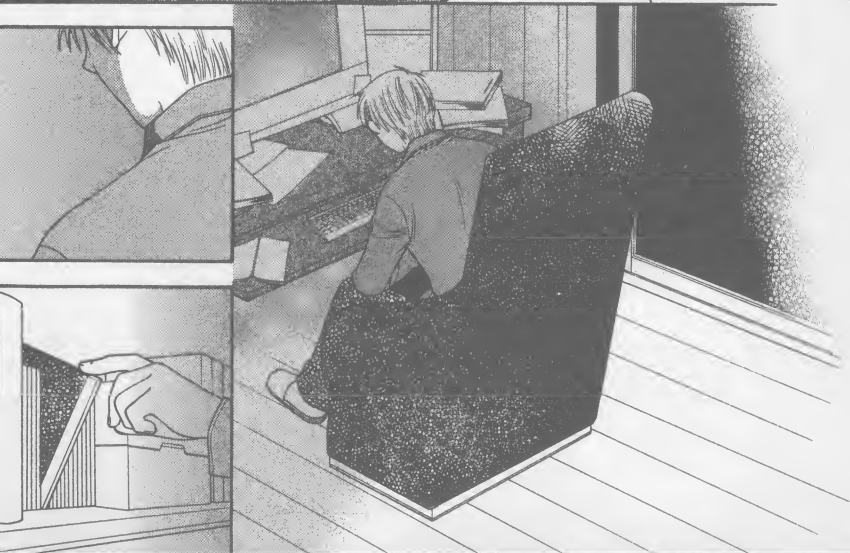
...IS THAT
WHILE YOU
REALIZE
ALL THAT,
YOU STILL
DON'T REGRET
A THING.

THE WORST
THING ABOUT
YOU...

I'M POWERLESS
AND
WORTHLESS. A
MAN OF SMALL
CALIBER.



I'M THE
WORST
OF MEN.

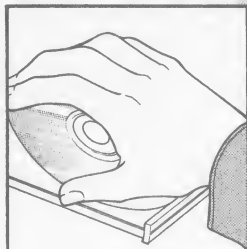




"AS
LONG..."



"...AS
YOU'RE
ALIVE..."



"HEY."

"KURENO."



"... WISHES
WILL KEEP
BEING
MADE."

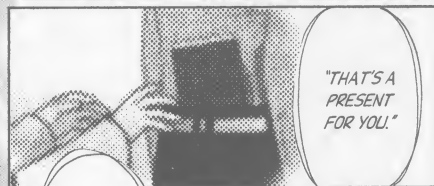


HN.



I WONDER
WHAT'S
ON IT.

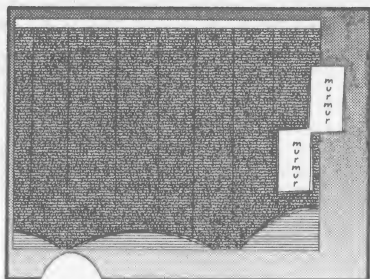
MAYBE I
SHOULD
WATCH IT.



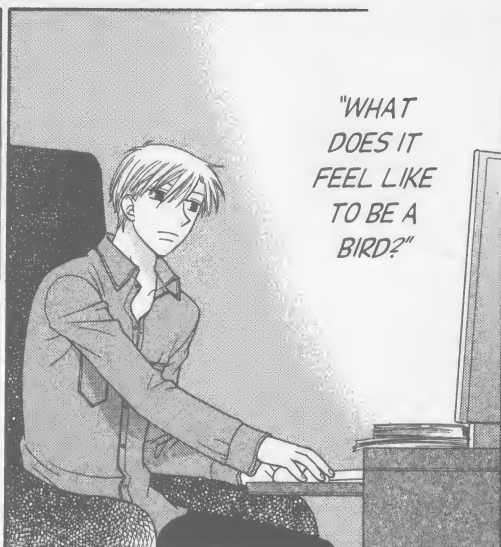
"THAT'S A
PRESENT
FOR YOU."



"FROM
TOHRU."



"WHAT'S
IT LIKE?"



"WHAT
DOES IT
FEEL LIKE
TO BE A
BIRD?"



"IS IT
EXCITING?"

"IS IT FUN?"

"TO BE ABLE
TO FLY
THROUGH
THE SKY,
COMPLETELY
FREE..."




"I WISH
I COULD
BECOME
A BIRD."



"YOU'RE
LUCKY."



"YOU'RE
LUCKY,
KURENO."



"I'M WORRIED
ABOUT YOU,
YOU STUPID
LUG, AND
THIS IS MY
THANKS?"

"GO BUY
YOURSELF
SOME
COURTESY!"

"THINK OF
ALL THE
STAR-CROSSED
LOVERS WHO
WOULD KILL
FOR THINGS
THIS EASY!"

"ALL THOSE
STAR-
CROSSED
LOVERS..."

"...WHO JUST
WANNA SEE
EACH OTHER..."

"WHAT
ARE YOU
BROODING
ABOUT,
SLINSHINE?"

"WE THREW
THIS GIANT
THING FOR
YOU."



"BECAUSE..."

"...SHE CAN'T
SEE YOI,
KURENO-SAN,
SHE'S BEEN
REALLY
SAD..."



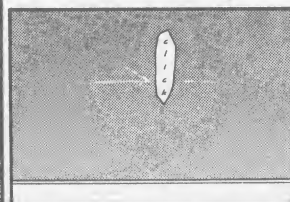
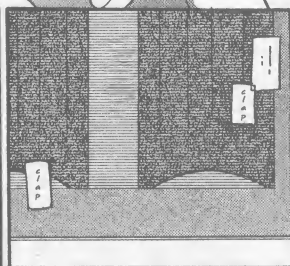
"...AND
LONELY!"

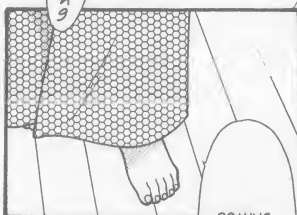
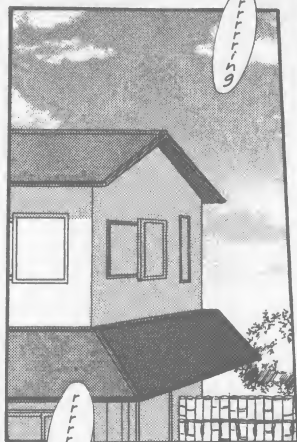


"COME
SEE ME,
DAMMIT!"



*"DON'T
ABANDON
ME!"*





COMING,
COMING.

HEL...?





...HM?
TOHRU-KUN'S
STILL AT
SCHOOL.

THIS IS
UNUSUAL.

flutter

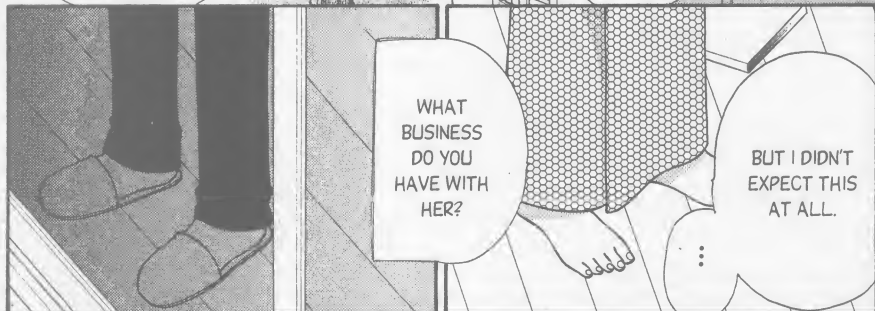
IT MIGHT
EVEN BE
A FIRST.



AND I THINK THE
PROBABILITY OF
ANYONE ASKING
FOR TOHRU-
KUN FIRST IS
PRETTY LOW
TO BEGIN WITH.

I DON'T
SEE THE
CONNECTION.

WHY ARE
YOU ASKING
FOR TOHRU-
KUN AGAIN?



WHAT
BUSINESS
DO YOU
HAVE WITH
HER?

BUT I DIDN'T
EXPECT THIS
AT ALL.

...



HAVE
YOU...



カリ slide
カリ



BY THE
WAY,
KURENO.



CAN I ASK
SOMETHING
I'VE BEEN
WONDERING
ABOUT FOR
A WHILE?




ARE
YOU...



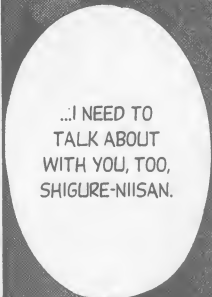
WELL.



I'M HOME!



THERE
MIGHT BE
SOMETHING
...



...I NEED TO
TALK ABOUT
WITH YOU, TOO,
SHIGURE-NIISAN.



IT'S
ABOUT
TIME.



I'M SORRY TO
ASK RIGHT WHEN
YOU WALK IN
THE DOOR, BUT
WOULD YOU BUY
SOME ENVELOPES
FOR ME?

TWO
A-4S.

I'D BE
HAPPY
TO!



IS THERE
ANYTHING
ELSE?!

THAT'LL DO.
OH, AND YOU
CAN CHANGE
BEFORE
YOU GO.



WELCOME
BACK.

YUKI-KUN HAS
A STUDENT
COUNCIL
MEETING AND
KYO-KUN IS AT
SHISHOU-SAN'S.

ARE YOU BY
YOURSELF?

Yes!



TAKE
CARE.



I'M
OKAY.

I'M OFF!

.....



OH.



SPAR-
ROWS!



AND
MAYBE...

THAT'S
RIGHT!

I'LL BUY
SOME TRASH
BAGS WHILE
I'M AT IT.



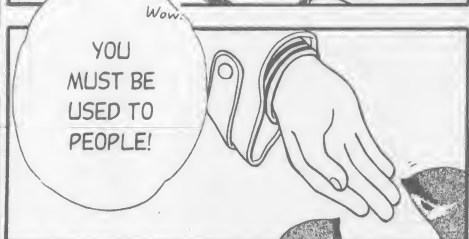
flutter

ACK!



YOU'RE
SO CUTE!

I'M SORRY--
I DON'T HAVE
ANYTHING TO
FEED YOU.



Wow

YOU
MUST BE
USED TO
PEOPLE!



"WELL."



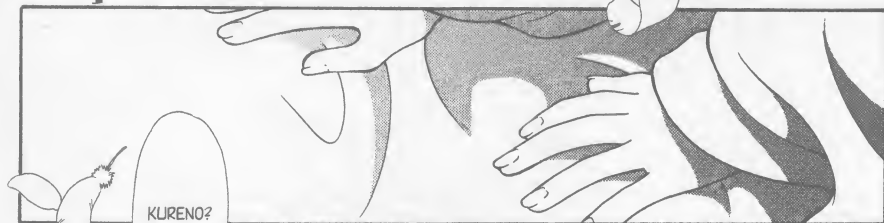
"HAVE
YOU..."



"FROM THE
CURSE."

"...BEEN
RELEASED?"

Chapter 97








I
THOUGHT...

...YOU WERE
POSSESSED
BY THE
SPIRIT OF
THE BIRD.

AND WHEN
YOU'RE
POSSESSED
BY A SPIRIT,
THAT
ANIMAL....



"THEY
COME ON
THEIR
OWN, SO IT
CAN'T BE
HELPED."



"THEY JUST
COME FOR THE
DOG, IT'S DOGS;
FOR THE RAT,
IT'S RATS."

"A LONG TIME AGO
WHEN I WAS IN
THE MOUNTAINS
WITH KAGURA, WE
WERE SURROUNDED
BY BOARS."



Um...
HUH?

BUT...

THEY
FLEW
AWAY.

WHEN
YOU
ARRIVED.

KURENO-
SAN.

THE
BIRDS.



KURENO...

...SAN.



"WE
TRANSFORM."

"WHEN
HUGGED..."

"BY THE
OPPOSITE
GENDER, WE
TRANSFORM."

RIGHT.

BUT I'M
NOT LIKE
THAT
ANYMORE.

I WON'T
TRANSFORM.

MY
CURSE...

...HAS
ALREADY...





...BEEN
BROKEN.



I WAS A
LITTLE
YOUNGER
THAN YOU
ARE NOW.

IT
HAPPENED
YEARS AGO.



I...

"YOU'RE
LUCKY."

"HE HARDLY
EVEN
ASSOCIATES
WITH THE
OTHER
MEMBERS OF
THE ZODIAC."

"I CAN'T
THINK
OF HIM
AS ONE
OF US."

NOW
...

...I'M NO
LONGER
ONE OF
THE
ZODIAC.

I CAN'T
FLY
ANYMORE.

"YOU'RE
LUCKY,
KURENO."





BUT HE
JUST...

WE TRIED TO
STOP HIM, AT
LEAST UNTIL
YOU HAD
WOKEN UP,
AKITO-SAN.

I'M
SORRY.

HE SAID HE
HAD SOME
BUSINESS HE
COULDN'T
GET AWAY
FROM!

NO--IT SEEMS
HE'S TURNED
OFF HIS CELL
PHONE.

CAN YOU
CONTACT
HIM?



NEVER!



HMPH.

HE NEVER
LEFT
WITHOUT MY
PERMISSION
BEFORE.



FIND
HIM.

RIGHT
AWAY!



HOW
DID THE
CURSE...?

HOW?

IT
HAPPENED
SO SUD-
DENLY.

I
REALLY
DON'T.

I
DON'T
KNOW.

WHY?!

...THE
CURSE
WAS
BROKEN.

WITHOUT
ANY
WARNING...



AND
THERE
WAS
NOTHING
TO DRIVE
ME AWAY.

LIKE
THERE
WAS NO
ONE INSIDE
ME BUT
"ME."

IT FELT
LIKE MY
FIELD OF
VISION HAD
ABRUPTLY
BEEN
OPENED.

...I'D
FINALLY
BECOME
HUMAN.

IT
FELT
LIKE...

I REALIZED
SOMETHING.

I'D NEVER
BE ABLE TO
FLY IN THAT
SKY AGAIN.
IT MADE ME
BOTH SAD...

FINALLY.

THE SKY
WAS SO
BLUE
THAT
DAY.

AND I
WAS
HAPPY.

...AND
ELATED.

At first, maybe people didn't really know the word "waves," because I got asked what it means a lot.

Hana-chan.



...is all me...

Same hair, volume 17...

- With her father, mother, grandmother, and younger brother (Megumi), Hana-chan has a family of five.
- I think I've mentioned everything about Hana-chan in the story, so there's not really anything to add.
- She likes shōjo manga and shōjo novels more (?) than you'd expect.
- After the sleeper, she made sure to buy "Summer-Colored Sigh" and read it again.
- Her admiration for Shishōv is strong.
- But I wonder if my thinking they'd make a good couple is just my blind love for them as their creator (laugh).



KURENO-SAN.

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ZODIAC?

THEY STILL THINK YOU'RE THE BIRD.

HUH?

BUT...

EVEN NOW.

AREN'T YOU?

A-AND YOU'RE STILL BY AKITO-SAN'S SIDE.



...HAVEN'T BEEN RELEASED FROM?

KURENO-SAN...

WHAT IS IT?

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU STILL...



ABOUT
YOUR
PRESENT.

IT'S
WASTED
ON ME.



I CAME
HERE TO
TELL YOU
THAT.

I'M JUST...
SORRY.



I'M
SORRY.



...I'LL
CONTINUE
TO STAY
BY AKITO'S
SIDE.

I WON'T
BE SEEING
ARISA.

BECAUSE
FROM
NOW ON...




"I HAVE...
NO INTENTION..."



"...OF
SEEING
HER."

TWICE.



THEY WERE
SUCH TINY,
TRIVIAL
ENCOUNTERS.

...THAT I
MET ARISA
AND TALKED
WITH HER.

IT WAS
ONLY
TWICE...



AND THOSE
WILL
FADE INTO
NOTHING
SOMEDAY.



IF IT ENDS
NOW,
WITHOUT
MY SEEING
HER...

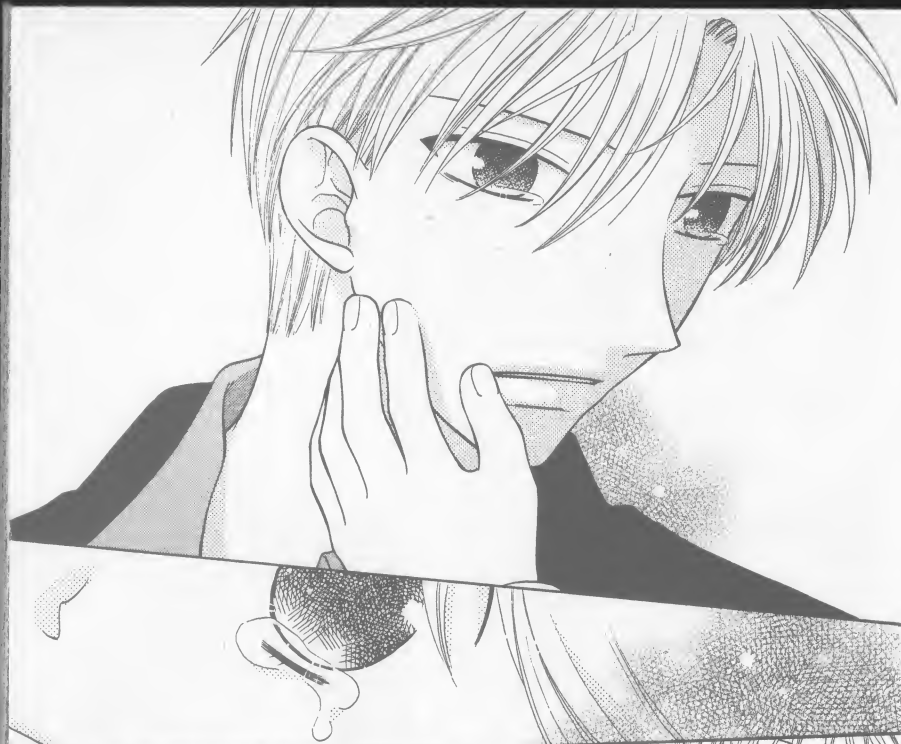
...THEY'LL
BECOME
A TRIVIAL
MEMORY.



THAT'S
ALL
THERE IS
TO IT.

ALL
RIGHT?

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
WORRY
ABOUT IT
ANYMORE.



"COME
SEE ME!"

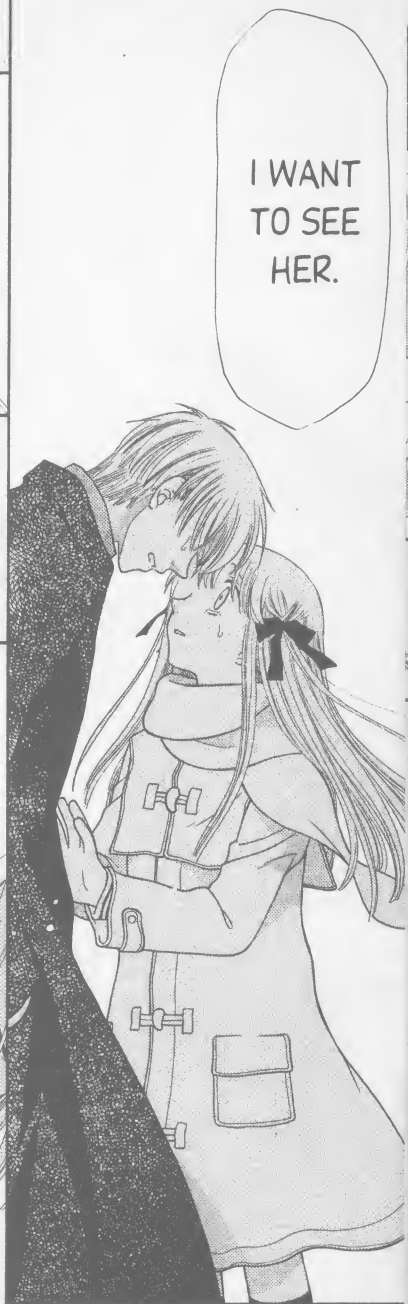
"I DIDN'T
THINK IT
WAS A
WASTE."


"DAM-
MIT!"

"BECAUSE
I WANTED
TO SEE
YOU."

"THEN
SMILE."

"MORE
HAPPILY."






I COULD
HAVE HELD
HER AS
MUCH AS I
WANTED.

IT'S
TRUE.

I'M NOT
POSSESSED
BY A SPIRIT
ANYMORE.

IN
REALITY
...




I CAN
LOVE
ANYONE.

ME, AND
NO ONE
ELSE.

I CAN GO
ANYWHERE.

I WAS
RELEASED
SO EASILY
FROM THE
CURSE THAT
EVERYONE
ELSE STILL
SUFFERS
FROM.


I'M
FREE.



THAT'S
WHY I
HAVE
TO...

BUT...

BUT
THAT'S
EXACTLY
WHY.



...I HAVE
TO BE BY
AKITO'S
SIDE.



!!



AKITO,
CALM
DOWN.

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?!

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
AKITO-SA--



AKITO.



AKITO?!

GET
AWAY
FROM
US!

WHY?

DON'T LET
ANYONE COME
UNTIL I SAY
SO. DO YOU
HEAR ME?!

WHY?!

IF ANYONE
COMES, I'LL
KILL THEM!

WHY?!

I'LL KILL
THEM!

AKI...



WHY
DID IT
BREAK?!

I
HONESTLY
DON'T
KNOW.

JUST
...
HAP-
PENED?

I
MEAN...

I
DIDN'T--

IT'S OUR
BOND...!

I DON'T
KNOW,
EITHER!

IT
JUST...
HAP-
PENED.

WHY?!

I
DON'T--

WHY ARE YOU
LOOKING AT ME
WITH DISTANT
EYES?!



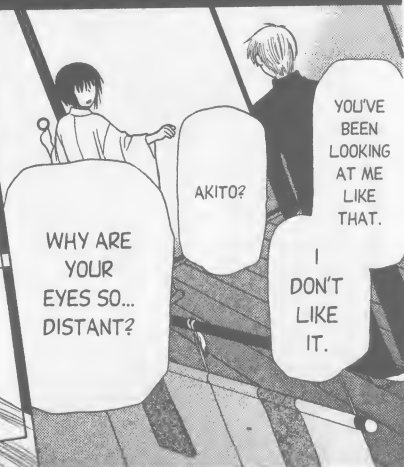
...WHAT?



NO.

THOSE
EYES.

STOP
IT!




AKITO?

WHY ARE
YOUR
EYES SO...
DISTANT?

YOU'VE
BEEN
LOOKING
AT ME
LIKE
THAT.

I
DON'T
LIKE
IT.



STAY WITH
ME! YOU
HAVE TO!

DON'T GO!
DON'T
LEAVE
ME!

DON'T EVER
LEAVE
MY SIDE!

DON'T GO
ANYWHERE!



DON'T...

DON'T...

DON'T
LEAVE ME
BEHIND!



DON'T...!



KURENO!

DON'T
ABANDON
ME!



DON'T
GO...!

PLEASE!

! ...

.....

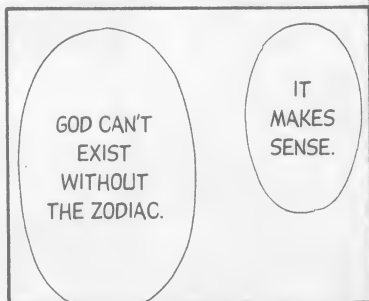
I'M
BEGGING
YOU.

PLEASE...



...HIS BOND
WITH US IS
EVERYTHING.

FOR
AKITO...



GOD CAN'T
EXIST
WITHOUT
THE ZODIAC.

IT
MAKES
SENSE.

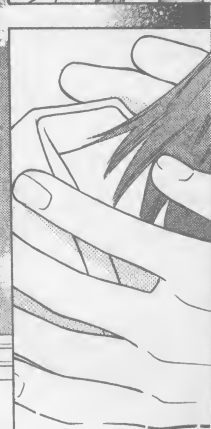


ON THE
DAY MY
CURSE
WAS
BROKEN.

SO
THEN...

I
SWORE.

I COULDN'T
FORSAKE
HIM.



I
COULDN'T
DO IT.



I VOWED
TO STAY
BY HIS
SIDE.

"I'LL
ALWAYS
BE BESIDE
YOU,
AKITO."

"I SWEAR
IT."

"I
SWEAR
TO YOU."

"I'LL
ALWAYS
BE HERE."



I WANTED
TO STOP
AKITO'S
TEARS.

WHATEVER
IT TOOK.



I WAS WILLING,
IF THAT WAS
WHAT IT TOOK
TO STOP THAT
CHILD'S TEARS.

I WAS
WILLING TO
LIE TO THE
OTHERS...

...AND
PRETEND I
WAS STILL
POSSESSED
BY THE BIRD.



THAT WAS
ALL I COULD
THINK OF.

HONESTLY.



"DON'T YOU
THINK YOU
SHOULD'VE
LEFT HIM?"

"FOR
AKITO-
SAN'S
SAKE."

"AND
NOT
JUST
THEN."



"FOR
HIS
SAKE
NOW."



....!



I COULDN'T
DO IT.

I
COULDN'T
LEAVE
HIM!



"COME
ON.
YOU'RE
NOT
BOUND
ANY
MORE
RIGHT?"



"YOU FELT
SORRY FOR
HIM?"



"MAYBE
IT'S ONLY
PITY."

"MAYBE IT'S
ONLY OUT OF
PITY THAT I
HOLD HIM."

BUT I
CAN'T
JUST
LEAVE
HIM.



IT'S TRUE
THAT MY
CURSE
WAS
BROKEN.

AND THE
BOND THAT
I USED TO
FEEL...

...IT IS
GONE
NOW.
BUT...



I-I SWORE
I'D STAY
BY HIS
SIDE.



I'LL
ALWAYS...

UNTIL THE
DAY HE NO
LONGER
NEEDS ME.



CAN YOU
UNDERSTAND
THAT?

I SWORE
I'D KEEP
ON LIVING.

AKITO CLUNG
TO ME AND
CRIED SO HARD
I THOUGHT
HE'D BREAK
IN TWO.

AND
SO...

...FOR THE
SAKE OF
THAT
GIRL...





...THAN
ANYONE.



TIMID...

FOR
THAT
CHILD.




...AND
WEAK.

WEAKER
THAN
ANYONE.



MORE
FRAGILE...



FOR
THAT
SAD
...

...LITTLE
GIRL.

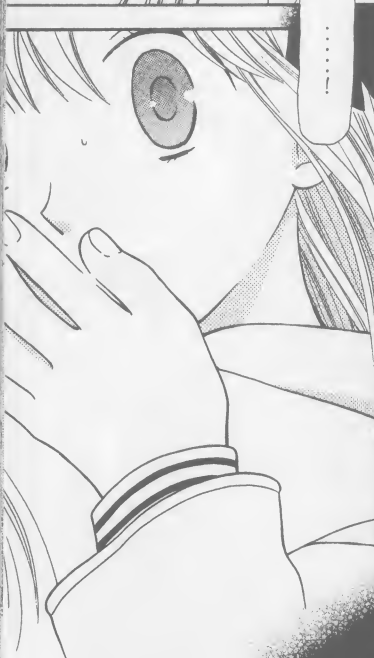
Chapter 98



AKITO-
SAN...



IS A...



.....!



GIRL...?

A
GIRL!





IS
IT...

IS THAT
REALLY
TRUE?

IT C-
CAN'T BE.

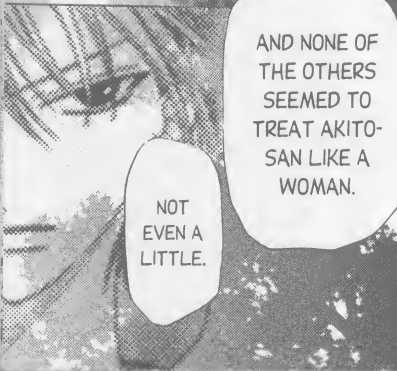
IS
THAT...



BUT...

BUT
AKITO-
SAN!

AKITO-SAN
WAS...
BEHAVING
LIKE A BOY.



NOT
EVEN A
LITTLE.


AND NONE OF
THE OTHERS
SEEMED TO
TREAT AKITO-
SAN LIKE A
WOMAN.



IT'S
TRUE.

THERE
ARE MANY
SECRETS IN
THE SOHMA
FAMILY...

...AND
THAT ONE
IS THE
BIGGEST.



...SHE WAS
RAISED AS
A MAN.

SINCE THE
DAY AKITO
WAS BORN...

TO
THINK.

SHE'S A
GIRL.




THAT
PERSON...

...DECIDED
ON IT.



.....

DO YOU
REMEMBER?



THERE WAS
A TIME
YOU WERE
ALMOST
FOUND AT
THE MAIN
HOUSE.



WHO
DECIDED?

HUH?



HATORI!



NO!



**WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!**



**GET
AWAY!**





SHE WAS
ONLY
SAYING
HELLO.

AKITO,
IT'S NOT
LIKE
THAT.

THAT'S
RIGHT.



AKITO...

HOW
MANY
TIMES DO
I HAVE
TO TELL
YOU?!

YOU CAN'T
JUST GET
NEAR THEM
WHENEVER
YOU WANT!



THE
MINUTE
YOU SEE
A MAN
FROM THE
ZODIAC...

...YOU
START
COMING ON
TO HIM!



I WAS
ONLY
SAYING
HELLO TO
HATORI.

IS
THAT SO
WRONG?



REN
SOHMA.

SHE'S A
LITTLE
ILL, BOTH
PHYSICALLY
AND
MENTALLY.

SHE'S
USUALLY
IN A BACK
ROOM.

WHY ARE
YOU EVEN
WANDERING
AROUND
HERE?

GO BACK
TO YOUR
OWN
ROOM!
NOW!


BUT TO
AKITO, SHE'S
STILL THE
BIGGEST
PART OF
HIS LIFE.

THAT
PERSON.



AKITO'S...

...MOTHER.



THOSE TWO
TRULY HATE
EACH OTHER.

NEITHER
AKITO
NOR REN-
SAN...

...WILL
EXPLAIN
THE REAL
REASON
FOR IT.

IT WAS
HIS OWN
MOTHER'S
DECISION.

THERE'S
ONLY ONE
THING...

SHE
DECIDED
TO RAISE
AKITO AS
A MAN.

...WE KNOW
FOR SURE.



AND
HATORI...
YOU
POOR
THING.



HATORI'S
NOT A POOR
THING!



GOOD-
NESS.

AKITO-SAN.

EVERYONE IN
THE ZODIAC
WILL STOP
ACTING SO
NICE TO YOU.


DO YOU
ALWAYS
HAVE SUCH
A DIRTY
MOUTH?



AND
THEY'RE
NOT
ACTING
NICE!

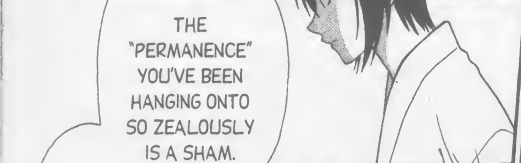
WE'RE IN
A WORLD
SOMEONE LIKE
YOU COULD
NEVER BE A
PART OF!

WE'RE
CONNECTED
THROUGH
A BOND!



YOU
STUPID
CHILD.

YOU'RE
STILL
SPOUTING
THAT
GARBAGE?



THE
"PERMANENCE"
YOU'VE BEEN
HANGING ONTO
SO ZEALOUSLY
IS A SHAM.

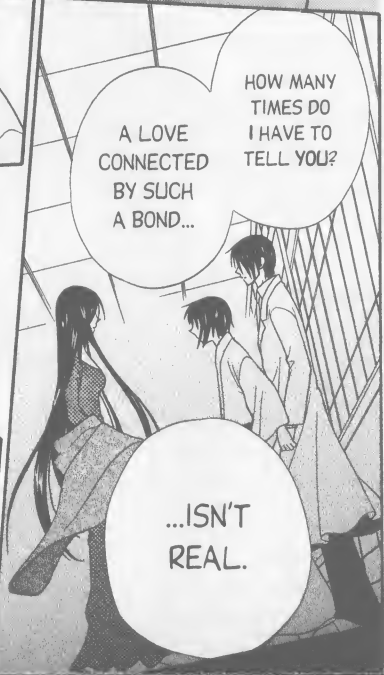


THAT
"PERMA-
NENCE"...

...IS A
DELUSION.



I FEEL SORRY
FOR ALL THE
MEMBERS OF
THE ZODIAC
BEING MADE
TO KEEP YOU
COMPANY.



A LOVE
CONNECTED
BY SUCH
A BOND...

HOW MANY
TIMES DO
I HAVE TO
TELL YOU?

...ISN'T
REAL.



AKITO!

TELL ME
WHAT IS
REAL!

THEN
TELL
ME!

THE LOVE
OF A
PARENT?!
EVEN
THAT ISN'T
PERFECT!


EVEN JUST
WITHIN THE
SOHMA, THERE
ARE TONS OF
PARENTS WHO
LEAVE THEIR
OWN KIDS!

SEE?

JUST
LIKE YOU
DID!

Koff

Koff
Koff




NO ONE HAS
THE RIGHT
TO GET RID
OF THEM!

MY
"PERMA-
NENCE"!

NO ONE,
NOT EVEN YOU,
CAN DEFINE
WHAT'S REAL,
WHAT'S A LIE,
WHAT'S PRETENSE,
WHAT'S WORSHIP!


THE REAL
THING?

MY "BOND"
WITH
EVERYONE!




THE REAL
THING DOES
EXIST, AND
I HAVE IT!

I HAVE
IT WITH
AKIRA-SAN!



THAT IS
REAL...!

THE "BOND"
BETWEEN
AKIRA-SAN
AND ME.





AND THEN I
CAN GO TO
AKIRA-SAN!

I
CERTAINLY
DON'T NEED
SOMEONE
LIKE YOU!



....!
I'LL
KILL
YOU!



I'LL
KILL
YOU!

FINE,
KILL
ME!

IF I DIE, MY
SOUL WILL
RISE TO
HEAVEN.

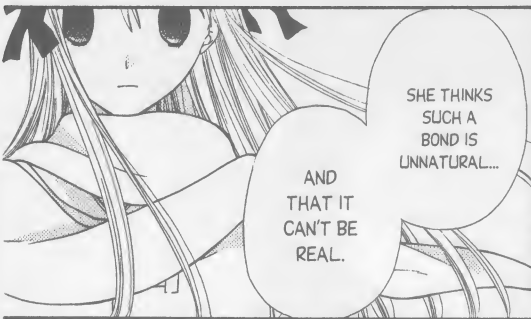
"...AKITO."

"MY CHILD,
BORN TO BE
LOVED."



"WE'VE
ALL BEEN
WAITING..."

"...FOR
YOU,
AKITO."

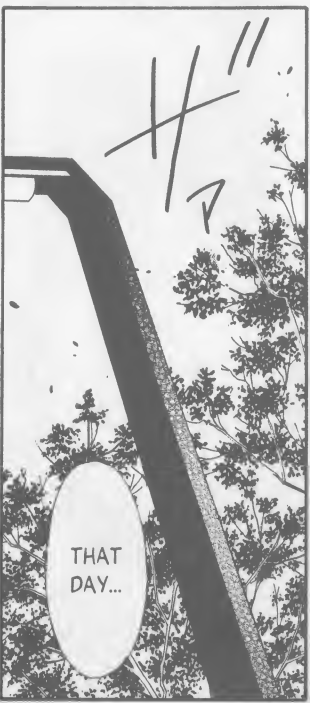


AND
THAT IT
CAN'T BE
REAL.

SHE THINKS
SUCH A
BOND IS
UNNATURAL...



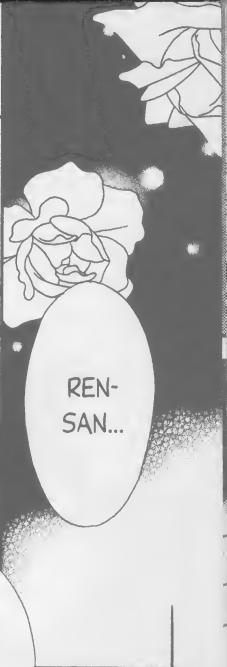
THAT'S
WHY SHE'S
CONSTANTLY
BUTTING HEADS
WITH AKITO,
WHO CLINGS TO
THAT BOND.



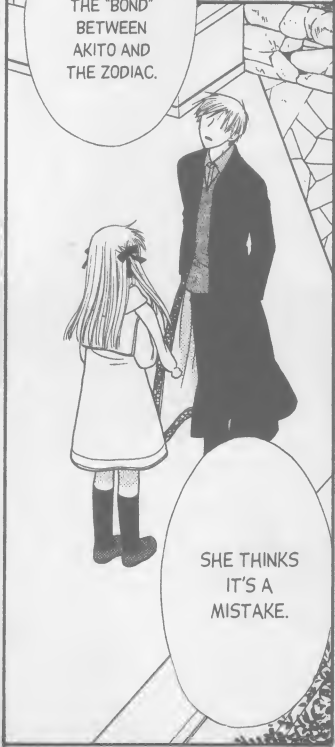
THAT
DAY...



SHE DOESN'T
BELIEVE IN
THE "BOND"
BETWEEN
AKITO AND
THE ZODIAC.



REN-
SAN...



SHE THINKS
IT'S A
MISTAKE.



...AND
AYAME-
NIISAN
DID, TOO.

HATORI-
NIISAN...

SHIGURE-
NIISAN...



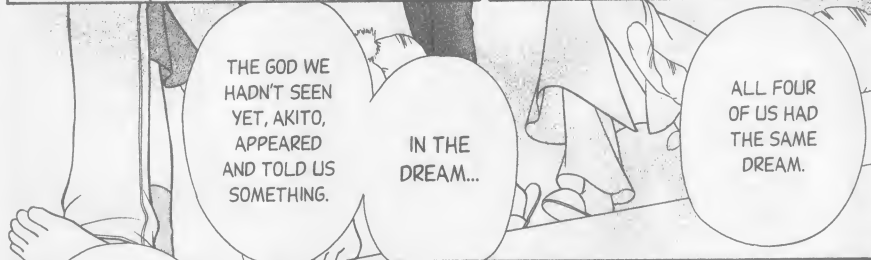
APPARENTLY
RITSU WAS
TOO YOUNG
AND DIDN'T
REALLY
UNDERSTAND.

THE ONLY
MEMBERS OF
THE ZODIAC
WHO KNOW
THAT AKITO IS
A WOMAN ARE
THOSE THREE
AND MYSELF.



...I WOKE
UP
CRYING.

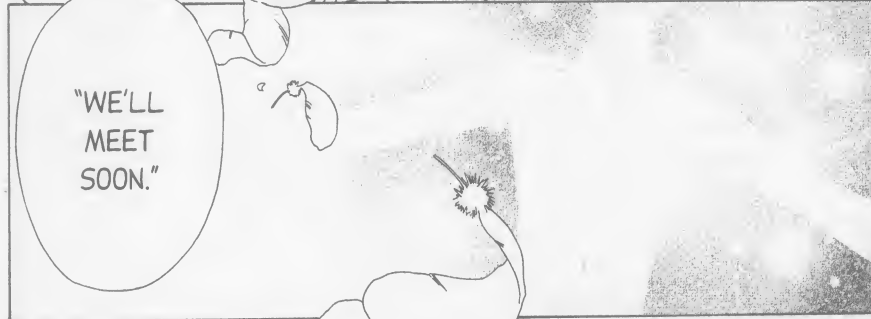
THE
MORNING OF
THE DAY
REN-SAN
CONCEIVED
AKITO...



THE GOD WE
HADN'T SEEN
YET, AKITO,
APPEARED
AND TOLD US
SOMETHING.

IN THE
DREAM...

ALL FOUR
OF US HAD
THE SAME
DREAM.



"WE'LL
MEET
SOON."



WE KEPT
CRYING
AROUND
HER.

WE ALL WENT
STRAIGHT TO
REN-SAN.

SHE DIDN'T
EVEN KNOW
SHE WAS
PREGNANT
YET.

"WE'VE
BEEN
WAITING."



"WE'VE BEEN
WAITING,"
WE SAID.



I FELT LIKE
A ME WHO
WASN'T
ME WAS
SHOUTING.

...I WAS
FILLING UP WITH
FEELINGS THAT
BELONGED TO A
ME I DIDN'T KNOW.

FROM
DEEP
DOWN.

DEEP
INSIDE MY
HEART...



...WAS THE
VOICE OF
THE SPIRIT.

THAT...



I CAN LOOK
BACK ON IT
DIFFERENTLY.

AND I DO
THINK THE
"BOND" WAS
UNNATURAL.

JUST LIKE
REN-SAN
SAYS.



AND
YET...



...THERE
WAS ONE
MORE THING
I COULD
SEE.

"...BUT GOD
AND THE
ZODIAC
SPIRITS MADE
A PROMISE."

"TO BE
TOGETHER...
FOR
ETERNITY."

"EVEN IF
THEY WERE
REBORN
SEVERAL
TIMES..."

NOW
THAT THE
CURSE IS
BROKEN...



ANOTHER SELF
THAT LIVED
INSIDE ME--
THE BLOOD OF
THE SPIRIT.

EVEN IF A NEW
SENSE OF SELF
WAS BORN,
THE SPIRIT'S
BLOOD WOULD
CONDEMN IT.

"DON'T
BETRAY
AKITO."



A GIRL.

CRYING.



TAKE HER
TO HER
ROOM.

YES.

RIGHT
AWAY!

AKITO-
SAN...



IT'S ALL
RIGHT...

MADAM?

Y-
YOU'RE
HERE?



AKITO...

IT'S ALL
RIGHT.



CALM
DOWN.



MADAM.

COME,
LET'S GO
BACK.



WH--



I
WONDER.

HEH
HEH!

CAN YOU
REALLY WIN
LIKE THAT?



THEY'RE
SO
CRUEL.

THEY'RE
SO
CRUEL!

NNGH!



WHY
DOES
SHE...

WHY
DOES SHE
ALWAYS...

...SAY SUCH
AWFUL
THINGS?

A
CRYING
GIRL.

A
CRYING
AKITO.

I COULD
NEVER
LEAVE...

"HATORI."

"HATORI."

"CARRY
ME."



...I'M
SORRY.

I PROBABLY
TOLD YOU TOO
MUCH AND
CONFUSED
YOU.



I CAN'T
MEET WITH
ARISA.

NOT WHEN
THERE'S
ANOTHER GIRL
I HAVE TO
STAY BESIDE.

I WANTED
YOU TO
KNOW, JUST
A LITTLE...


I WANTED
YOU TO KNOW
THAT AKITO IS
BATTERED AND
TORN HIMSELF.

LISTEN.

I KNOW
AKITO HURTS
PEOPLE
WITHOUT
ANY QUALMS,
BUT...

MORE.

...WHY
I CAN'T
LEAVE
HIM.



BUT THE
WORDS WON'T
COME.

I SHOULD
HAVE MORE
TO SAY.

I SHOULD
HAVE MORE...


...TO
SAY.



THEY
WON'T.



STILL.



THIS
IS THE
PATH I'VE
CHOSEN.



I'VE
CHOSEN
IT.

I CHOSE
IT ON
MY
OWN.

...IS HURT
PEOPLE.



I'M
SORRY.


ALL I
EVER DO...



AND
THANK
YOU.



I
CAN'T...



I'M THE
ONE WHO
DECIDED TO
DO THIS.



FOR
EVERYTHING.



...MOVE
ANYMORE.

...I'M
SORRY.



I
WON'T.

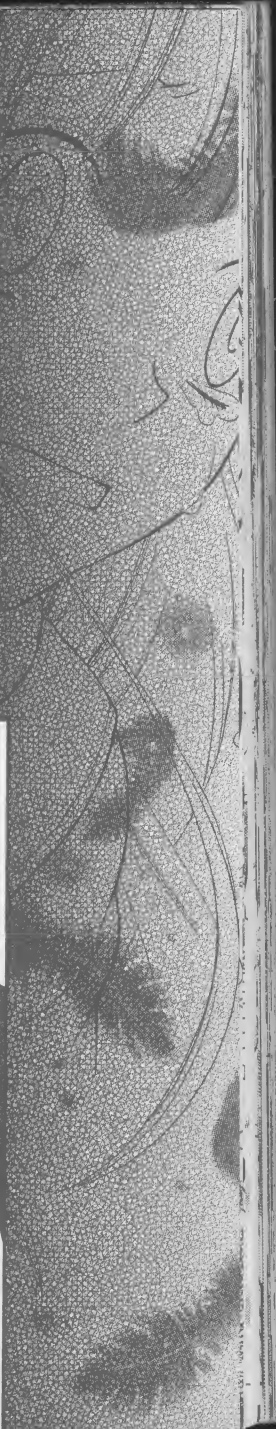
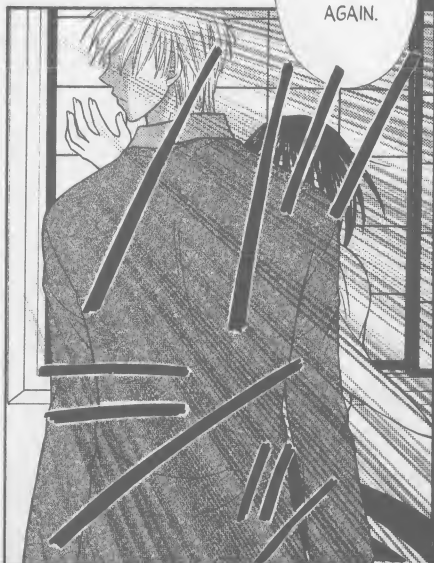


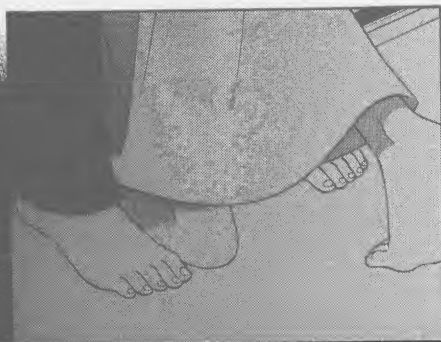


I WON'T
MOVE
ANYMORE.

LIO-
CHAN.

KLIRENO-
SAN.



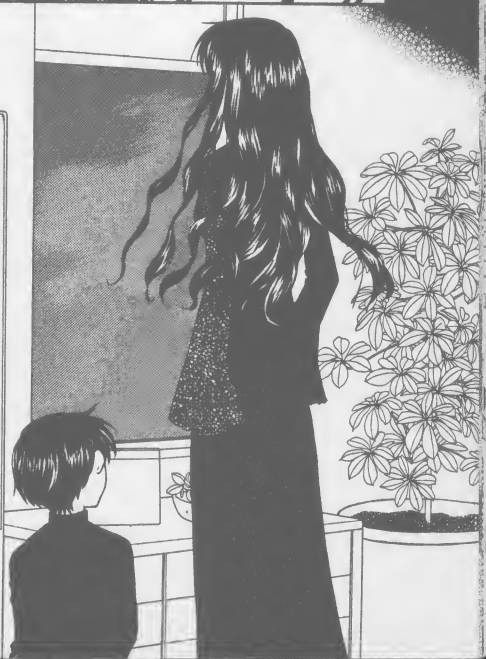


ALL THIS
SADNESS...

...IS
CONNECTED
LIKE A
SPIRAL.

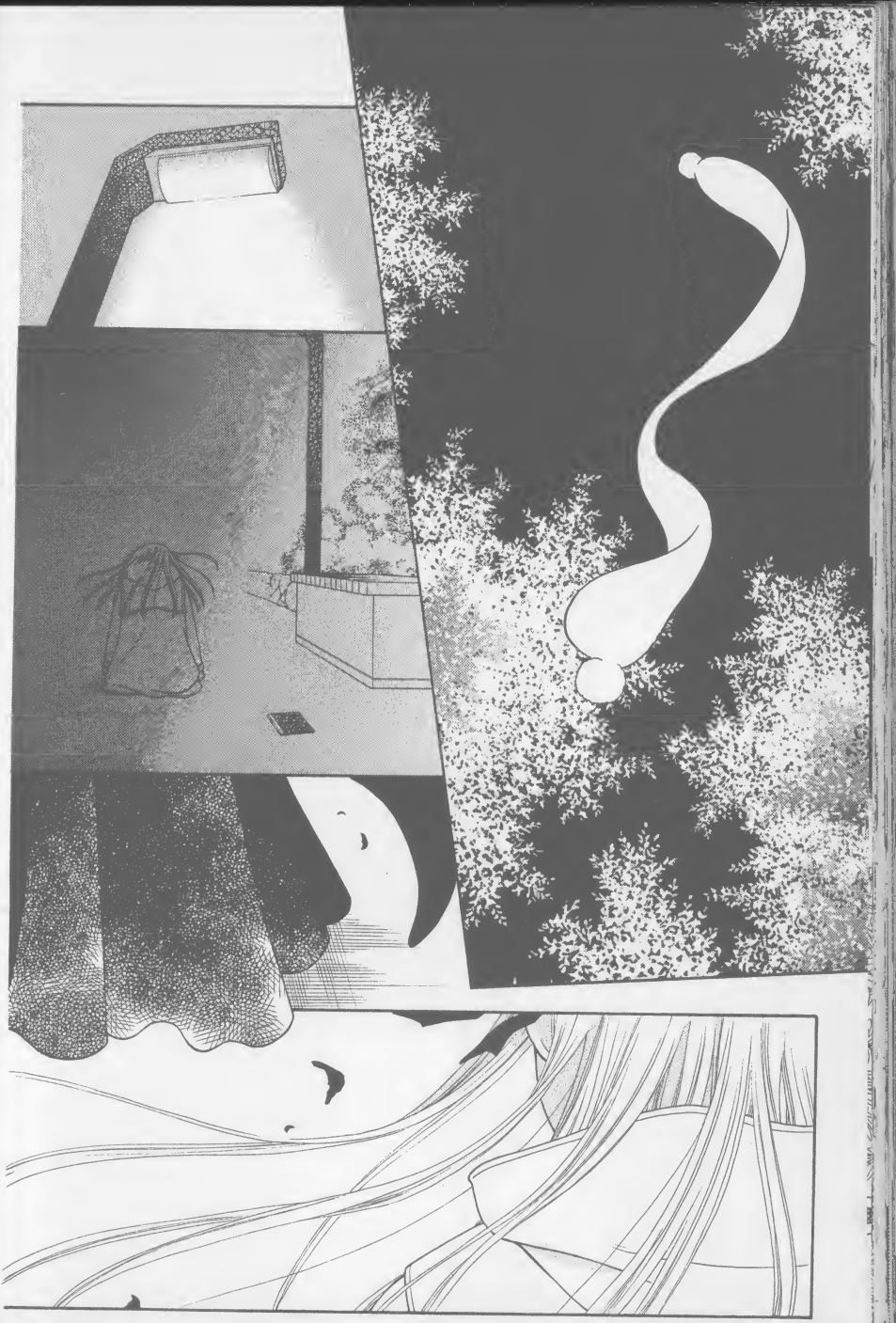


AND I
CAN'T
MOVE.





Chapter 99



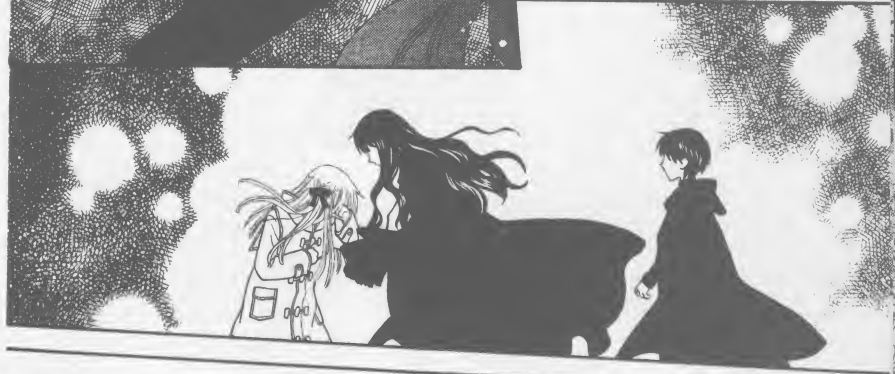


DA DA-DA-
DAAAAH.



YOU
CALLED...

...SO I
CAME
RUNNING.



WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

WHAT?

WAIT.

Regarding this girl, letters usually tell me "I like her, but I wouldn't want her as a friend."

Kimi.



- With her father and mother, Kimi is in a family of three.
- Her father is elite, so she grew up in a fairly affluent home.
- When creating Kimi, my top priority was to make a girl who had absolutely no connection with "the Sohma family or emotional pain."
- But I get the feeling that she's uselessly lively.
- And my editor told me, "You like drawing girls like this, don't you?"
- In Chapter 66, when Kakeru said, "But really, she's just--" I got a letter asking if the end to that sentence was "an okama." That's a reader with a good memory (laugh).

Why an okama? Isn't an okama a drag queen?



DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU SOUND LIKE, HANAJIMA-SAN?

I SAID I'VE TAKEN TOHRU-KUN INTO MY CUSTODY.

I WON'T BE GIVING HER BACK TONIGHT.



I SEE... THEN WE'LL LEAVE IT AT THAT.

VIKES.



IT'S FINE AND ALL...

BUT STILL A LITTLE WEIRD.

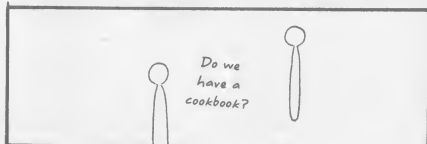


NO.

THAT'S FINE, REALLY.

ARE YOU OBJECTING TO OUR HAVING A NIGHTWEAR SOIREE...?

YOU MEAN YOU'RE HAVING A PAJAMA PARTY.







I'LL BE
SURE TO.



OH!

SHE SAYS
SHE'S NOT
HUNGRY.
IT'S MORE
IMPORTANT
TO MAKE
THE TEA.

YOU'RE
RIGHT. OH,
DEAR, TEA!



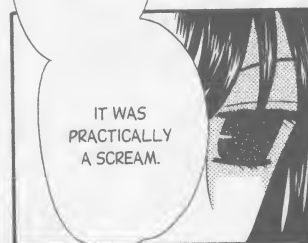
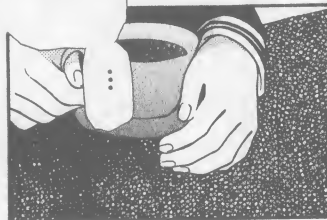
MEGUMI...



WHEN
SHE GETS
HERE...TAKE
CARE OF
THINGS.



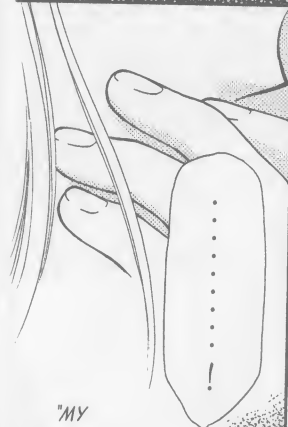
はっ





...I
PRESUME.

SOMETHING
UPSETTING
HAPPENED.



"MY
CURSE..."

"...HAS
ALREADY..."

I'M
JUST...

CON-
FUSED.

ABOUT...

ABOUT A
LOT OF
THINGS.



I...



HANA-
CHAN.



I'm...

"ARISA..."

"I WON'T
BE SEEING
ARISA."

"...BEEN
BROKEN."

"FOR THE
SAKE OF
THAT GIRL."

"AKITO'S
MOTHER."

"ARISA..."



KURENO-
SAN...

KURENO-SAN
IS A...SOHMA.

KURENO...

...TO
MEET WITH
UO-CHAN...

I
JUST...

I
WANTED
HIM...

KU...

AND I
A-ASKED
HIM.


BUT HE
SAYS...

KURENO...

HE SAYS
HE CAN'T
SEE HER.

...SAN...!

HE
TOLD
ME
THAT.



...THERE'S
SOMEONE
ELSE...

BE-
CAUSE...

HE HAS
TO BE
WITH.




...OF
SOMEONE
ELSE.

...HE CARES
MORE
ABOUT THE
FEELINGS...

K-KURENO-SAN
IS SO KIND.

INSTEAD
OF HIS OWN
FEELINGS...



...DO
ANYTHING...!

ALL I'VE
DONE IS
CAUSE
TROUBLE.

I-I
COULDN'T
SAY
ANYTHING.

I
COULDN'T...

BUT I
COULDN'T...

I
COULDN'T.



HM.

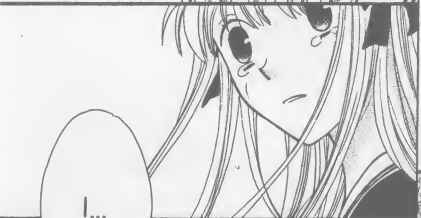
LIU-CHAN.



HE CARES
MORE
ABOUT THE
FEELINGS
OF OTHERS,
DOES HE?

THEN THAT
MAKES
HIM JUST
LIKE YOU,
TOHRU-KUN.

KURENO-
SAN.



I...



I DO WORRY
ABOUT YOU.



I
COULDN'T
...

...BE
OF ANY
HELP...!



IN SO
DOING...

YOU ACCEPT
THE FEELINGS
OF OTHERS.



コ
ホ
...

AND
CARRY
THEM.

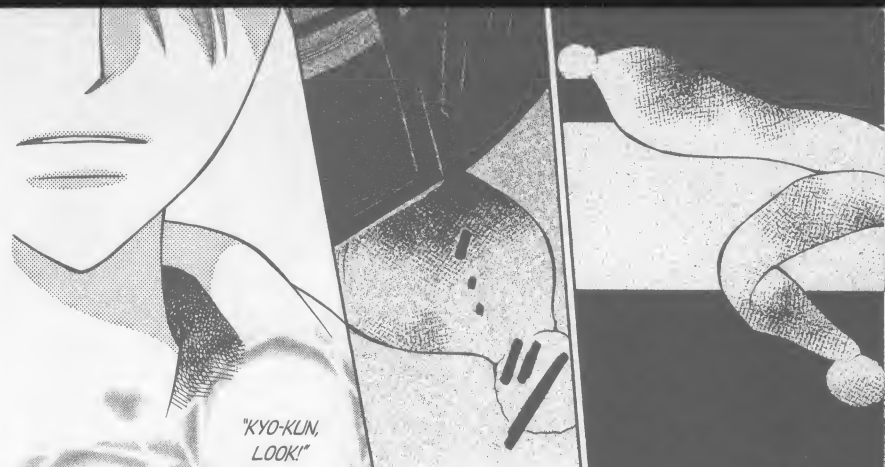
AND
CARRY
THEM.

SOME-
DAY...



AND VERY
CAREFULLY...

...YOU
CARRY
THEM.



"KYO-KUN,
LOOK!"

"I BOUGHT A
NEW SCARF!
AND LOOK--
IT HAS POM-
POMS!"

"...KUN!"

...IN THE
FUTURE...



"IT LOOKS
LIKE YOU'D
HIT SOMEONE
IF YOU SPIN
AROUND."



...YOU MAY
BE CRUSHED
BY THEM.



Ack!
"HEY."

"TAKE
THAT!"

"HA
HA!"

I
WORRY.

I WORRY
THAT
YOUR
SMILING
FACE...

YES.

AND IF
YOU'RE
CRUSHED...

...WILL
DISAPPEAR
AS WELL.

...WERE TO
HAPPEN...

IF
SUCH A
THING...

TRULY.





HOW
DO I
SAY
THIS.



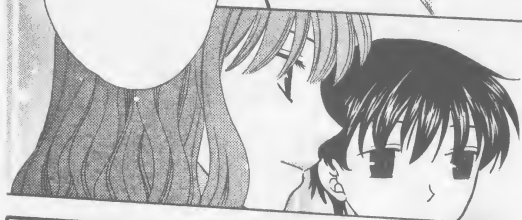
YOU'RE NOT
SOMEONE
WHO CAN'T
HELP, OKAY?



I MADE
YOU CRY.

THAT
MEANS I
SUCK.

YOU DO
NOTHING OF
THE SORT,
UO-CHAN!





SO JUST
LEAVE IT.


IT CAN'T
BE
HELPED.

...

...FOR
PEOPLE
LIKE YOU.

OKAY?

IT CAN'T
BE
HELPED.



HE IS A LOT
LIKE YOU.

KURENO-
SAN, I
MEAN.

YOU'RE THE
SAME KIND
OF STUPID.

I MUST
REALLY
LIKE THAT
KIND OF
STUPID,
HUH?



MEGUMI!

BAD BOY,
MEGUMI.
YOU HAVE
TO SPEAK
CAREFULLY
IN TIMES
LIKE THESE.

BUT...

LIO-CHAN..

ARE YOU
SPEAKING OF
A LOST LOVE,
ARISA-SAN?




THERE
ARE SOME
THINGS
THAT TAKE
A LONG
TIME TO
ACQUIRE.

FRIENDS.

REALLY...


NOTHING
HAS BEEN
A WASTE.

LOVES.



THAT'S
ALREADY
MY CREED.

WELL,
OBVIOUSLY.



OH! MAY I
HELP WITH
SOMETHING?

EASY
THERE.

I'M
SURROUNDED
BY OLDER
WOMEN. HOW
VERY EXCITING.

WELL,
NOW.

SHALL WE
START THIS
PARTY?



THEY
FELL
ASLEEP.

INDEED.

IT
SEEMS...

SHE'S
PROBABLY A
BIT RELIEVED.

THAT ARISA
WAS GIVEN
CLOSURE FOR HER
OWN FEELINGS
AS WELL.

THAT
MAY
BE...

...ANOTHER
STORY.

H.M.

I WONDER
IF THE
POSSIBILITY
IS GONE?

...MORNING
STILL
ALWAYS
COMES.

ALWAYS.

HAS THERE
EVER BEEN
A NIGHT
THAT HAD
NO DAWN?

カラ

LOVE IS
DIFFICULT.

INDEED...

WHATEVER
HAPPENS IN
THE NIGHT...



LET'S
START
AGAIN.

ONE
DAY AT
A TIME.

SHIGURE-
SAN?

I'M
HOME!

IS THAT
MY SCARF?

Huh?!

A
SCARF!

IS HE
STILL
ASLEEP?

I
WONDER...



I'M GLAD I
GUESSED
RIGHT.



IT WAS
ALL BEAT
UP ON THE
GROUND.

In the
street.



HUNK.

SO IT
WAS
YOURS.



HEY! THE
THING'S
NOT DRY
YET!

まき。



PIFF

I
WARNED
YOU.

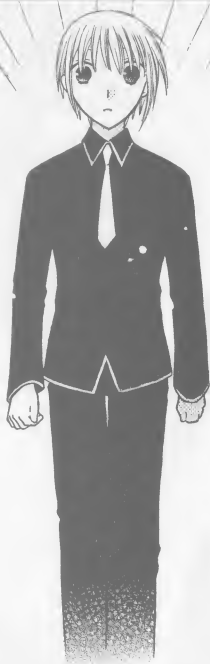


IF THE DIRT
BOTHERS
YOU, BUY A
NEW ONE.



UM...

I KINDA
WASHED
IT, BUT
IT DIDN'T
GET VERY
CLEAN.





Oh!

GOOD
MORNING!

GOOD
MORNING.

DID YOU
HAVE FUN
AT THE
PARTY?

I WANT
TO KEEP
GOING.

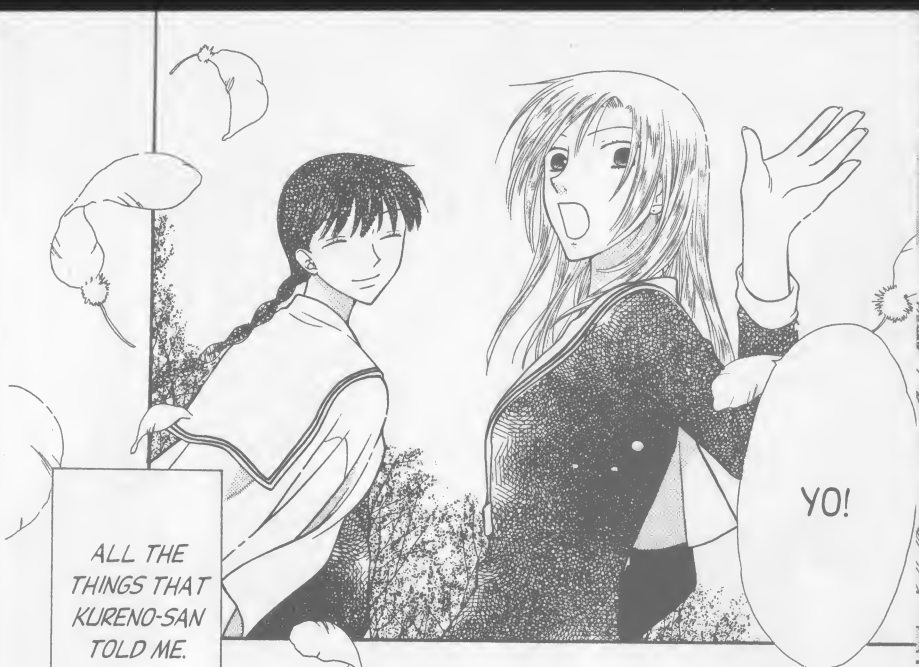


I WANT TO
UNTANGLE
THE CORDS,
ONE BY ONE.



UO-
CHAN!
HANA-
CHAN!

THE
WORDS,
THE
FACTS...



ALL THE
THINGS THAT
KURENO-SAN
TOLD ME.

YO!

HE SAID SO
MUCH.



That evening.

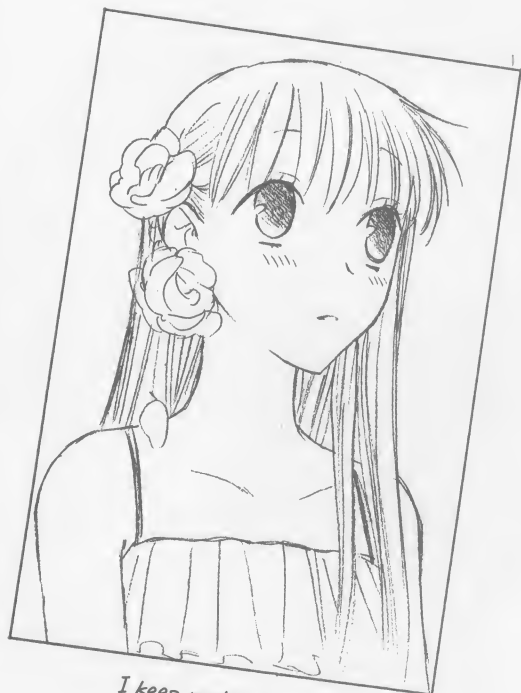
MAN. AFTER
SEEING YUKI-
KUN'S COOKING
LAST NIGHT, I
REMEMBERED
HOW GRATEFUL
I AM FOR YOU,
TOHRU.

AND IF ASKED,
I WOULD HAVE
TO SAY THAT
IT WAS AN
ABSOLUTE
TRAIN WRECK.

I WAS THIS
CLOSE TO
BEING SENT
TO HADES!

MAYBE
I AM
LACKING IN
TALENT.

Filler
Sketch



I keep making her
cause problems...



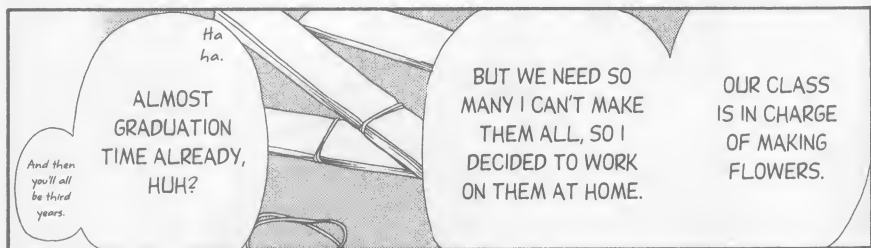
Chapter 100



Filler
Sketch



Now they're in a complicated love triangle.







YOU ASKED ME
THE OTHER DAY,
AND I ENDED
UP BEING A DAY
LATE. IT WAS
TERRIBLY RUDE!

So
please!

あー!!

ARE THERE
ANY ERRANDS
YOU'D LIKE
ME TO RUN
TOMORROW?!

UH,
UM,
I MEAN...



ER...



OKAY.

But!

UM, THAT
IS, N-NEXT
TIME I'LL
DO MY
BEST,
SO...!



OKAY.

I-I'M
GOING TO
MAKE
SOME
TEA.



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT.
I'M FINE.

YOU
BOUGHT THE
ENVELOPES
FOR ME
THE NEXT
MORNING,
ANYWAY.

Yes

Y--



I CAN'T
ASK HIM!



IT'S A
DIFFICULT
TOPIC TO
BRING UP.

I
UNDER-
STAND.



BE-
SIDES...

IT'S
JUST...
PRYING.

AND
WHY
SHOULD
I ASK?

...THE
WORDS
KURENO-
SAN SAID
AS HE
LEFT.

IN A
WAY...

Continued →

* Kimi-chan really thinks that all the men around her love her from the bottom of their hearts, all the women around her are there to make her look better by contrast, and that if they all like her, she can go out with as many people as she wants. She considers that permissible. It's nice that Kimi-chan is so honest with herself (laugh)!

* I hope you can always be like that.

It's all right;
I'm sure she will.



* Come to think of it, I don't think I've ever drawn this guy smiling...

Naohito.

* With his father, mother, eldest sister (full-fledged member of society), and next older sister (college student), Nao-chan has a family of five.

→ To be continued



HONESTLY.



CAN I JUST
RASHLY
TALK ABOUT
THOSE
THINGS?

ESPECIALLY
TO THE
OTHER
MEMBERS OF
THE ZODIAC...

...WHO
STILL
DON'T
KNOW.

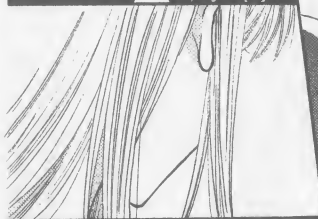
...HAS BEEN
RELEASED
FROM THE
CURSE.

...IT
WAS LIKE
PEERING
DOWN INTO
A DEEP,
DARK
WELL.

AKITO-
SAN IS A
WOMAN

AND THERE
ARE PROBLEMS
BETWEEN HER
AND HER MOTHER
REN-SAN.

AND
KURENO-
SAN...



SO
TOHRU'S
CLASS IS
MAKING
FLOWERS,
TOO!



IT LOOKS LIKE
THERE'S STILL
A LOT TO DO.
BUT ISN'T IT
FUN MAKING SO
MUCH NOISE WITH
EVERYBODY?

SO'S MY
CLASS.

I GUESS IT'S
SAD FOR THE
THIRD YEARS,
THOUGH--
THEY
HAVE TO
GRADUATE.

I THINK
YOU'RE...

YES!
TWINS!

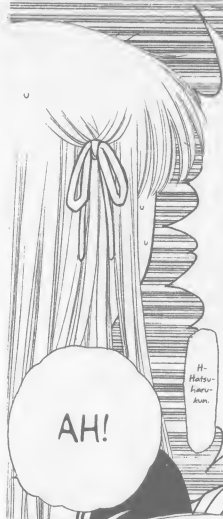
WE'RE
TWINS!
♡



び
び
び

...RIGHT.

OF
COURSE
IT'S SAD!




WHAT'S WRONG
WITH YOU?!
POPPING UP OUT
OF NOWHERE AND
BEING AS RUDE
AS YOU'VE EVER
BEEN!

I
can't
do
that!

JUST
STAY
BACK A
GRADE.

AH!

H-
Hatsu-
Kun-
kun.



PAPA
WAS
PANICKING
AGAIN.

BUT
WHEN
MOMO
GETS
HERE...

...I'LL HAVE
GRADUATED
ALREADY.

I WAS
THINKING
ABOUT
STAYING
BACK A
GRADE,
TOO.

WHAT?!

BECAUSE
OF MOMO,
Y'KNOW?

I HEAR SHE
WANTS
TO COME
TO THIS
SCHOOL!



EVEN THOUGH
HE HELPED SO
MUCH...AND EVEN
THOUGH I DON'T
WANT TO KEEP
THESE SECRETS...

I'M
SORRY.



I DON'T
KNOW HOW
MUCH OF
ANYTHING
I SHOULD
SAY.



IF I
TOLD
THEM...

...WHAT
WOULD
THEY
THINK?



I
CAN'T...

...TELL
MOMIJI-
KUN,
EITHER.

NOT EVEN
ABOUT UO-
CHAN AND
KURENO-SAN.





THINK ABOUT IT.

WH-WHY WOULD THEY DO SUCH A THING?!

Huh?!



PRINCE YUKI TOUCHED THEM.

HEH HEH HEH.



DAMMIT. THEY MUST'VE WAITED UNTIL NO ONE WAS AROUND!

UM... WHAT ON EARTH WAS THAT?

THOSE GIRLS JUST SWIPED ALL THE FLOWERS YUKI MADE.



YES, MOTOKO-SENPAI!

WE DID IT! WE DID IT, EVERYONE!

AND THEY'LL NEVER FIGURE OUT IT WAS US!

WE ADMIRABLY OVERCAME GREAT DIFFICULTY AND OBTAINED THE FLOWERS...!

Everybody knows.



THEY'RE LOST CAUSES, ANYWAY.

FORGET IT.



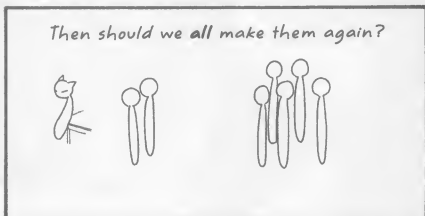
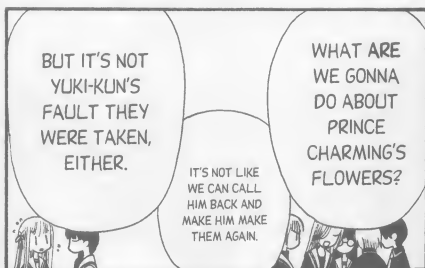
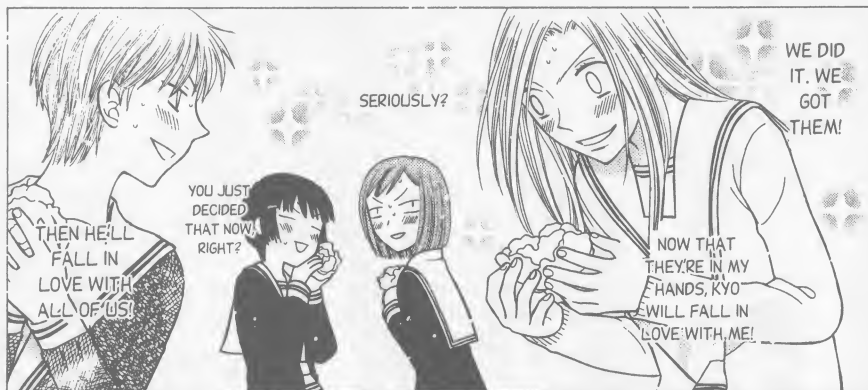
Apparently the flowers don't count as his personal property.

THAT DOESN'T PICQUE MY PERSONAL INTEREST.

Those crazy girls.

GO TEACH THEM A LESSON, HANAJIMA-SAN.







HUH?

YEAH!

WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
THOSE
GIRLS?!

A
G
H
!

LET'S CHASE
'EM DOWN!



EH?!

P-
protect?..
Protect
what?!

TOHRU,
YOU
PROTECT
THE STUFF
HERE!

IF YOU'RE
IN NEED OF
MY BATTLE
PROWESS...

LET'S
DO THIS!
HANAJIMA,
YOU'RE
COMING!

Um... BUT
WOULDN'T
IT BE
FASTER
JUST TO
MAKE THEM
AGAIN?
Yes?

DON'T BE
NAIVE,
TOHRU.
THEFT IS
A CRIME!



THEY'LL
COME BACK
EVENTUALLY..

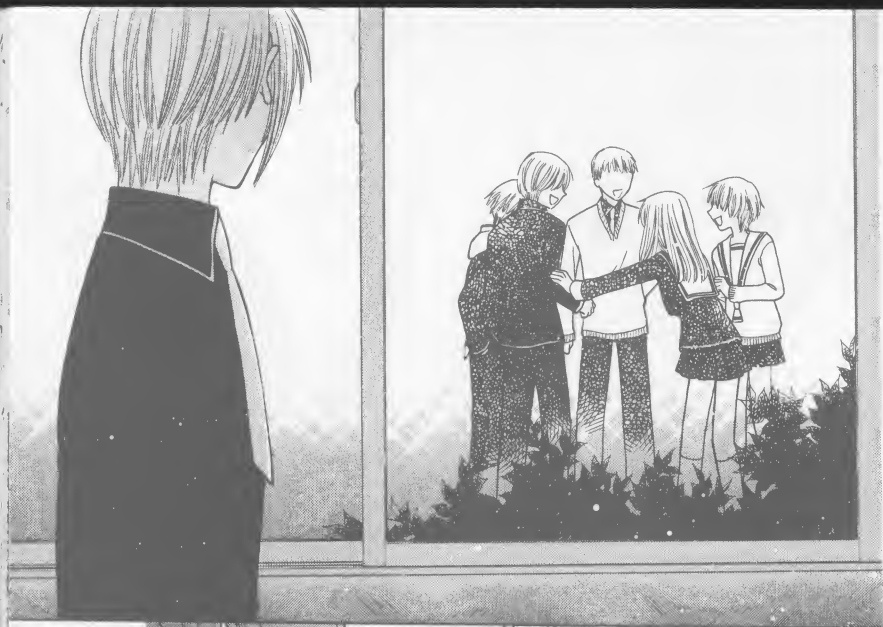
JUST
WAIT,
OKAY?

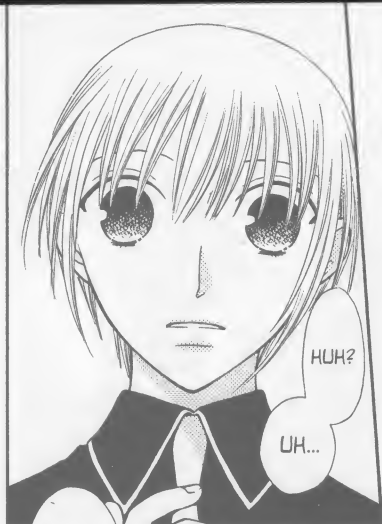


SHE JUST
DOESN'T
WANNA
MAKE 'EM
AGAIN.









HUH?

UH...



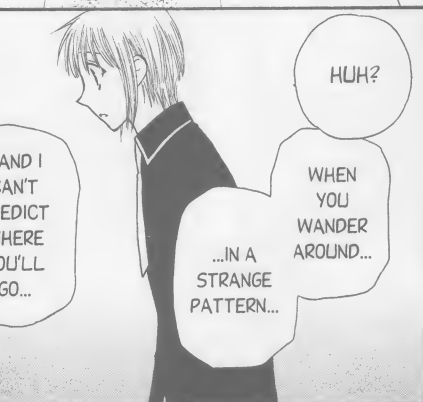
MACHI.



WHEN...

YOU SURPRISED ME.
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHY ARE YOU
OUT OF BREATH?

Where are
you going?



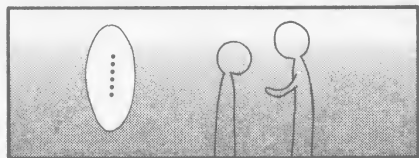
HUH?

WHEN
YOU
WANDER
AROUND...

...IN A
STRANGE
PATTERN...

...AND I
CAN'T
PREDICT
WHERE
YOU'LL
GO...

...AND
I LOSE
SIGHT OF
YOU...





*SHE WAS
CHASING
ME?*

*FOR
THAT?*

*TO SAY
HELLO?*



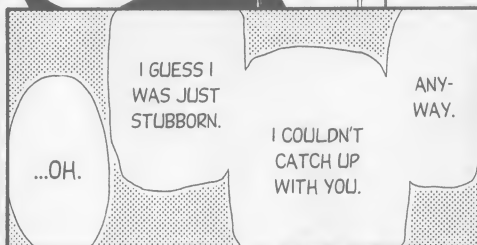
*SHE
WOULD'VE
SEEN ME
LATER,
ANYWAY.*

*In the student
council room.*



*IT'S CALLED
"PATROLLING."*

*BUT YOU KEPT
WANDERING
AROUND IN AN
UNPREDICTABLE
PATTERN.*



*I GUESS I
WAS JUST
STUBBORN.*

*ANY-
WAY.*

*I COULDN'T
CATCH UP
WITH YOU.*

...OH.

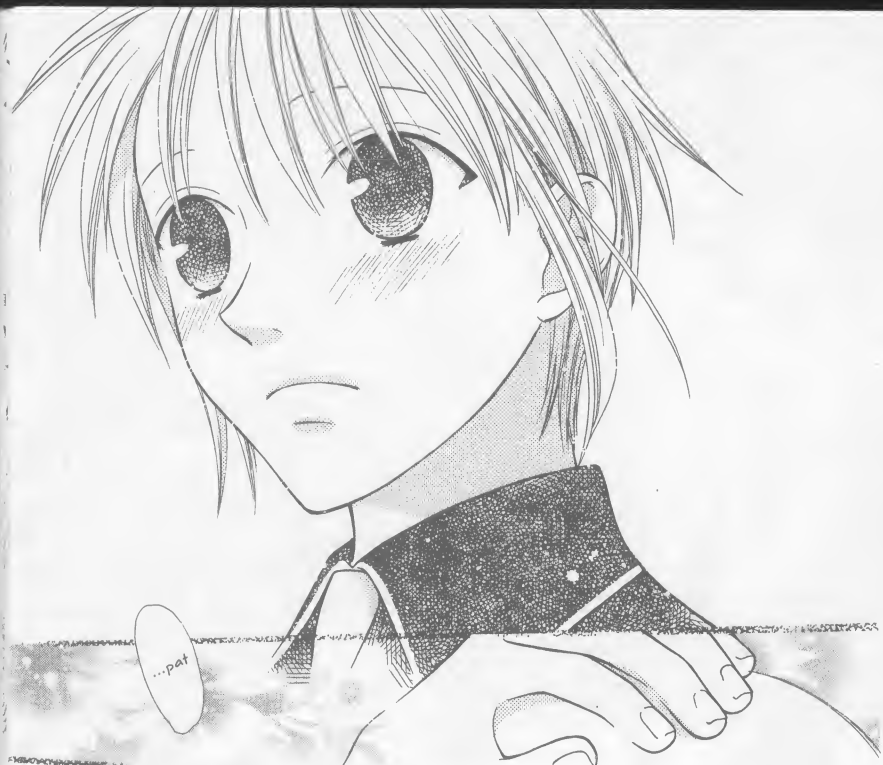


BUT...

*SHE
DIDN'T
GO TO
ANYONE
ELSE.*

*DID
SHE?*







WHAT WAS
THAT FOR?

AND
WHAT'S
THIS?

IT'S A
FLOWER!

OW!

WOW...IS IT
REALLY?

*It's worse
than the ones
I made.*

IT'S A
FLOWER!

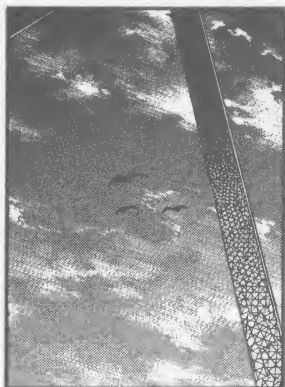
*Investi-
gation?
Umm.*

MABE THEIR
INVESTIGATION
ISN'T GOING
VERY WELL.

WHAT'RE
THEY
DOING?!

ARGH!
THEY'RE
TAKING
FOREVER!

.....



I BET THEY
FOUND
ANOTHER
GAME
AND GOT
SIDETRACKED.

I THINK
THOSE
GUYS LIVE
FOR THE
MOMENT.

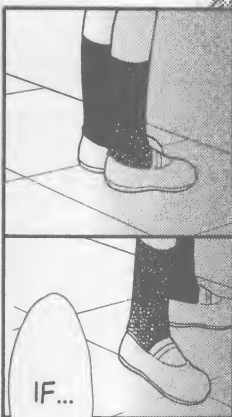
Oh.

I'M SURE
THAT'S
NOT IT.

Really.

"...HAS
ALREADY
BEEN
BROKEN."

"MY
CURSE..."



IF...



NN?

K-

KYO-
KUN.

...



WHY'RE
YOU ALL
DEPRESSED
NOW?!

HEY!

HUH?

WHAT
DO I
DO?

I'M NOT
ACTUALLY
MAD OR
ANYTHING!

WAIT!
DON'T...
JUST DON'T
APOLOGIZE!

WAS IT HOW
I SAID IT?!
WAS THERE
SOMETHING
WRONG
WITH HOW
I SAID IT?!



I'M
SORRY!

I'M SORRY...
IT WAS
THOUGHTLESS
OF ME.

NO.

N-

W--



I FEEL
LIKE...

...I'M
GOING
TO CRY.

R
u
s
t
l
e

BUT I
CAN'T
FACE
HIM.

I DON'T
WANT TO
TROUBLE
HIM.

I'M JUST
KINDA
DIRECT,
OKAY?

NO.

LOOK,
I'M
SORRY.





"...ABOUT
YOU."



"ABOUT
YOU."

HI.

HOW
ARE YOU
FEELING?

It was
a fair
judg-
ment.

Yeah.

THEY'RE JUST
HAPPY WE
DIDN'T TAKE
THE STOLEN
ONES BACK.

In a
good
way.

BUT
I'M
TIRED.

IT WAS
VERY
REWARD-
ING.

WE'VE APPRE-
HENDED THE
CRIMINALS!

カ
ラ

Eh?!

WHAT
HAPPENED?!

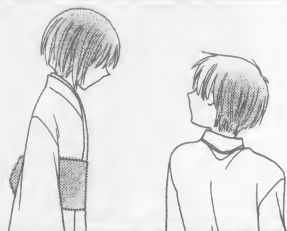
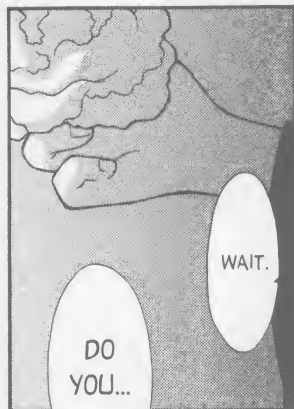
WE CAN
LEAVE
NOW,
TOHRU-
KUN.

WE'VE
RESOLVED
THE CASE
WITHOUT
INCIDENT!

Let's
go.

WE
CAUGHT
THE
THIEVES
AND ALL.

THEN WE
FORCED THEM
TO MAKE
AS MANY
FLOWERS AS
THEY TOOK.

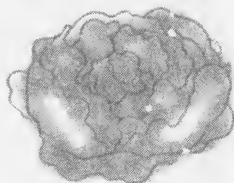




"I CARE
ABOUT YOU."

"AND THAT IS
THE HONEST..."

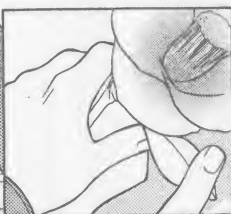
"...AND
UNSHAKABLE
TRUTH."





Chapter 101







AKITO.

...



I LOVE
YOU.



I CARE
ABOUT
YOU.

MORE
THAN
I CARE
ABOUT
ANYONE.



AND
THAT
IS THE
HONEST...

...AND
UNSHAKABLE
TRUTH.



WE'LL BE
ARRIVING
AT THE
RESTAURANT
SOON.

THEY SAID
EVERYONE
ELSE HAS
ALREADY
ARRIVED.

THEY'RE
WAITING
FOR YOU,
AKITO.



IS
SOMETHING
WRONG
WITH HER?

RIN?

ISUZU-
SAN...



I BLURTED
THAT
WITHOUT
THINKING.



OH, OKAY.
YOU
STARTLED
ME.

MY MIND
WAS JUST
WANDERING.
IT'S NOTHING
AT ALL!

I beg your
pardon!

Eek!
No!

I thought
something
happened.

GOSH.



EVEN THOUGH
ISUZU-SAN IS
DESPERATE
TO BREAK THE
CURSE TOO.

Continued →

• I made Nao-chan a boy who has no relation to the axis of the story as well. That makes me think Nao-chan is uselessly lively, too.

• Women are the majority in his family, and he grew up with his two older sisters taking loving care of him (laugh).

• He's worked like a slave, always being told to go buy this or go get that.

• I think it may be one of Nao-chan's good traits that, even while he's complaining about it, he'll grant their requests.

• But him liking "that person" might actually be because he has a sister complex.

• Kakeru thinks he's taking loving care of him, too, in the way he treats him.

• From the reader's point of view, it might be irritating to have a character whose heart isn't complete yet, but from the writer's perspective, it's pretty fun.

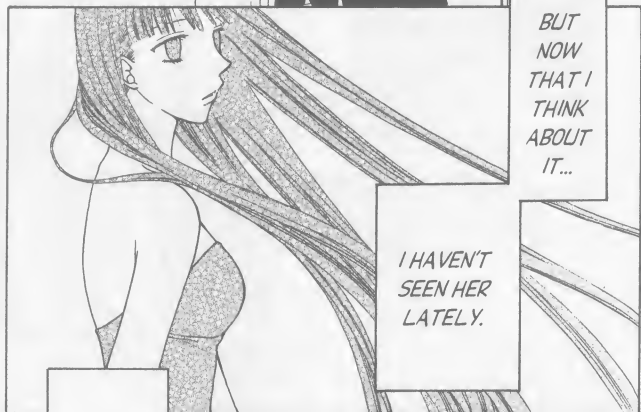
WHAT?
HEH
HEH.

YOU WERE
THINKING
SUCH A WEIRD
THING IN THE
BOTTOM OF
YOUR HEART?

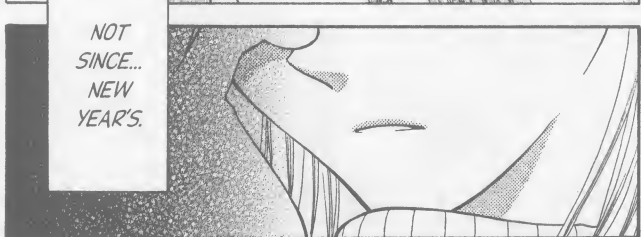
In the
drama
CD, she
pretended
to be
modest,
didn't she?



I'M SURE
I CAN
DISCUSS IT
WITH HER.



NOT
SINCE...
NEW
YEAR'S.



I JUST
FELT
UNEASY.

...FOR A
MOMENT...

FOR SOME
REASON...

OH.

HEY.

SHIGURE
SAYS HE'S
GONNA BE
BACK LATE,
AFTER ALL.

PLEASE,
COME!

ISUZU-
SAN'S HIGH
SCHOOL
SHOULD BE
NEXT TO
KISA-SAN'S
MIDDLE
SCHOOL.

ALL
RIGHT.

I'LL
GO SEE
HER.

HE
PROBABLY
WANTS TO
DRIVE HER
NUTS.

LATE? HE
WAS GOING
OUT TO
EAT WITH
HIS EDITOR,
WASN'T HE?

I'LL GO
SEE HER.

...

PLEASE
CHANGE
THAT!

BUT I THINK
SENSEI
LIKES YOU,
MITCHAN.

AND DIDN'T
YOU USED
TO TALK
ABOUT HOW
ATTRACTIVE
HE IS?

MITCHAN,
YOU WORRY
TOO MUCH.
AND YOU'RE
SOHMA-
SENSEI'S
EDITOR.

PLEASE,
YOU HAVE
TO COME
SAVE ME!

I THINK I'VE TRIED
HARD ENOUGH
ALREADY, AND I
DON'T HAVE THE
CONFIDENCE THAT
I'LL BE ABLE TO
STAY SANE LONG
ENOUGH TO MAKE
IT HOME SAFELY
TONIGHT!

AAA
AA
AH

ANYWAY,
IT'S A
BUSINESS
DINNER, SO
YOU HAVE
TO GO.

Did
you
know
?!
!

EXCUSE
ME?

THERE'S A
DEVIL WHO
PRETENDS TO
BE HUMAN
ADRIFT AT SEA
AND GETS ON
THE BOAT!

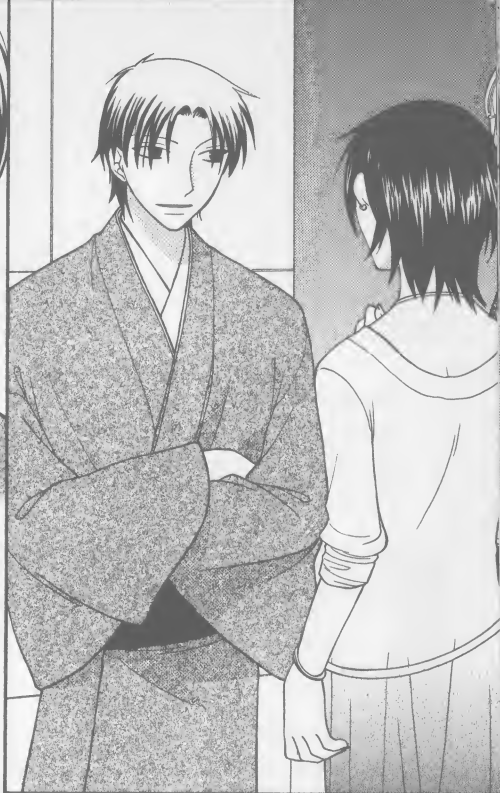
Talking about a movie.



WAIT,
SHIGURE!

...OH.

MY
EDITOR'S
HERE,
SO I'D
BETTER--



YOU'RE JOKING,
RIGHT?
WHERE'S
THE FUN IN
DRINKING WITH
YOUR OWN
PARENTS?

ERM.

IF THEY'RE
FRIENDS OF
YOURS, WHY
DON'T YOU
GO DRINKING
WITH THEM?

You know.



AT LEAST
SAY HELLO
TO AKITO-
SAN.

NO, THAT
WOULD
JUST END
UP GOING
TOO LONG.



LET'S
GO.

HUH?
BUT...

THOSE
WERE YOUR
PARENTS?!

SORRY TO
SAY, BUT
I HAVE
PARENTS,
TOO.
Even me.

THAT'S RIGHT.
EVEN THE
DIFFERENCE IN
SOCIAL STATUS
BETWEEN YOU
AND RITCHAN IS
TREMENDOUS.

THE SOHMAS
SEEM LIKE AN
INCREDIBLE
FAMILY.

*I always
thought as
much.*

Oh-
Main
house...
dinner...

No!
I WANT TO
SEE THEM
AGAIN! I
WASN'T
PAYING
ATTENTION!

*I want
to see
your
parents'
faces!*

DON'T BOTHER.
I'M SURE
THEY'LL JUST
SHOO AWAY
OUTSIDERS.

PEOPLE
CHOSEN
FROM THE
MAIN HOUSE
ARE HAVING
DINNER
TOGETHER
TONIGHT.

*You have
the worst
taste in
restaurants,
Mitchan.*

THE GREAT
HEAD
OF THE
FAMILY
MAKES HIS
ENTRANCE.

OH,
LOOK.

!!!



Er.

NO,
I WAS JUST
THINKING
THAT HE'S
SO YOUNG!

WHAT'S THAT
SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
ARE YOU SAYING
THAT IF YOU'RE
OLDER THAN TWENTY
YOU'RE NOT YOUNG?!

REALLY? HE
SHOULD BE IN
HIS TWENTIES.

*I'm sure
of that.*

I MEAN--NEVER
MIND! IT'S RUDE
TO CALL A MAN
BEAUTIFUL.



OH,
YEAH?

*He's
for
money.*

PALE AS
A GHOST,
ISN'T HE?

YEAH.



NOW, THEN!
WHERE
SHOULD
WE GO FOR
A DRINK?

WHAT?
BUT
SENSE!

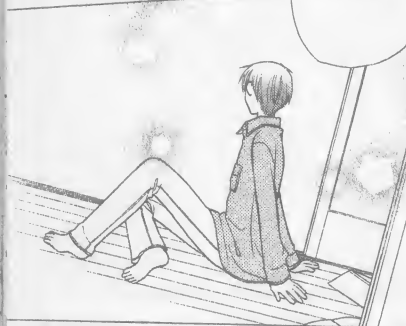
OOOHH,
PLEASE, NO
MORE WEIRD
PLACES!



I TOLD
HIM TO
SAY
HELLO,
BUT...



SHOULD I
GO AFTER
HIM?



COME ON,
KURENO.



LEAVE
IT.



"DON'T YOU
THINK YOU
SHOULD'VE
LEFT HIM?"



"FOR AKITO-
SAN'S
SAKE."

"AND
NOT
JUST
THEN."



"FOR HIS
SAKE
NOW."

DID YOU
KNOW I WAS
RELEASED
FROM THE
CURSE?

...VERY
SURPRISED.


YOU
DON'T
SEEM....

BUT NOW THAT
I'M HEARING IT, I
FEEL A LITTLE
BETTER.

H.M.

BUT IT WAS
JUST A HUNCH,
UNFORTUNATELY.

IT WOULD
BE NICE IF I
COULD SAY
SOMETHING
THAT MADE
ME LOOK
THAT GOOD.



HE'S SO
DESPERATE
IT'S SAD.

HE
WOULDN'T
WANT
PEOPLE TO
FIND OUT.

THAT WOULD
GIVE HIM
MORE REASON
TO KEEP YOU
BY HIS SIDE
FOREVER.

NII-
SAN...

I THINK
I UNDER-
STAND...

HOW
YOU
FEEL
ABOUT
THIS.

I HATE
YOU VERY
MUCH.

ISN'T
THAT
NICE?

AND YOU
SHOULD BE
GRATEFUL
THAT I'M BEING
SO HONEST
WITH YOU.

NOW YOU
CAN PRETEND
TO BE
DISAPPOINTED
TO YOUR
HEART'S
CONTENT.

AND I
KNOW
THAT YOU
HATE ME.

I DO
HATE
YOU.

BUT--

EVEN
NOW.

THE ONE
HE REALLY
WANTS IS...

I WANT
YOU TO
STOP
TREATING
HIM SO
COLDLY.

AKITO
DOESN'T
KEEP ME
BY HIS SIDE
BECAUSE HE
LIKES ME.

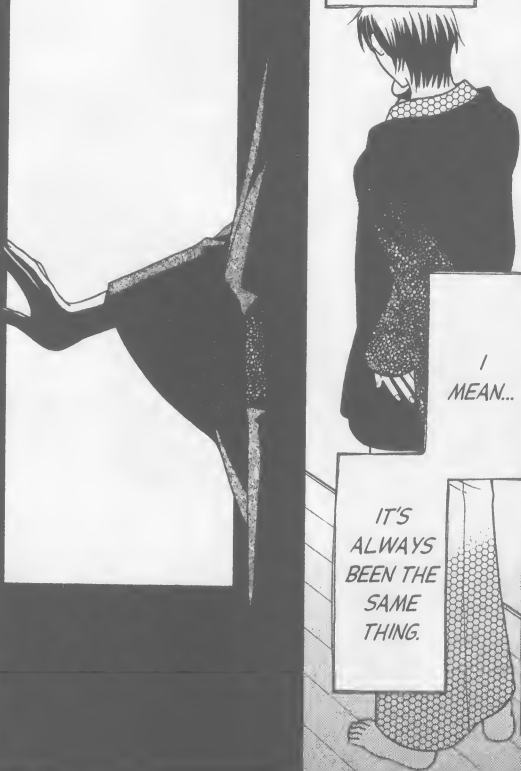
I
MEAN...

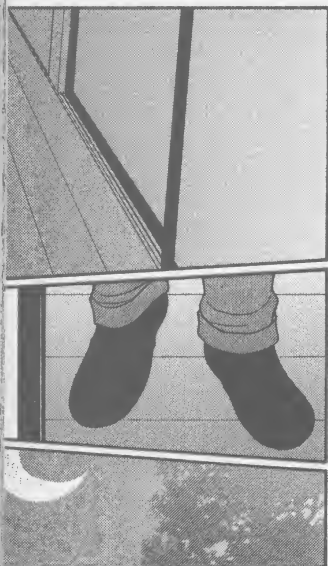
IT'S
ALWAYS
BEEN THE
SAME
THING.

NII-
SAN.

I
HOPE...

...YOU
WON'T
ABANDON
AKITO.







WHEN YOU
DRESS LIKE
THAT...



...YOU LOOK
MORE LIKE
A BOY THAN
EVER.



DID YOU
ENJOY
DINNER
WITH
EVERYONE?

...WELCOME
BACK.

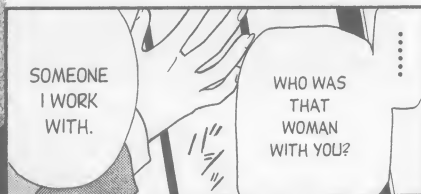


HAVE YOU
SLEPT
WITH HER
YET?



TO
APOLOGIZE
FOR NOT
TALKING TO
YOU AT THE
RESTAURANT.

WHAT DID
YOU COME
ALL THE
WAY HERE
FOR?



SOMEONE
I WORK
WITH.

WHO WAS
THAT
WOMAN
WITH YOU?



THAT'S
JUST SILLY,
AKITO-SAN.

BUT YOU
SLEPT WITH
THAT WOMAN.
DIDN'T YOU?

AND WHICH
WOMAN
IS "THAT
WOMAN"?



HA! AND HERE
I THOUGHT
YOU'D SLEEP
WITH ANY
WOMAN.

THAT
WOULD BE
DIFFICULT.

OH,
BOY.



I
MEAN
REN!



AND THAT'S
WHY I'M
LIVING IN
THAT HOUSE.

LISTEN
TO YOU.

YOU LEFT
WITHOUT
RESISTING
IN THE
SLIGHTEST!


YOU TOLD
ME TO GET
OUT OF HERE,
REMEMBER?

AND YOU
ALREADY
PUNISHED
ME FOR IT.

THAT
WAS A
LONG
TIME
AGO.

HOW
DARE
YOU?!

HOW DARE
YOU DO THAT
WITH HER?!



...AND
AWAY
FROM
ME!

YOU WERE
LOOKING FOR
AN EXCUSE
TO LEAVE,
WEREN'T
YOU?!

YOU
WANTED
TO GET
AWAY!

AWAY
FROM
HERE...

YOU LIKE
THAT
WOMAN
BETTER
THAN--

YOU
LIKE
HER.

SHIGURE.

THAT'S
WHY YOU
AND THAT
WOMAN
WENT AND...

"I CARE
ABOUT
YOU."

"MORE
THAN
I CARE
ABOUT
ANYONE."



I...
THOUGHT
YOU
FORGOT.

...



I NEVER
SAID I'D
FORGOTTEN.



IS THAT
WHY YOU'VE
BEEN SO
ANGRY ALL
THIS TIME?



"AND THAT
IS THE
HONEST..."

"...AND
UNSHAKABLE
TRUTH."



I'M NOT
TESTING
YOU.



WHY DO YOU
TEST ME
LIKE THAT?!


WHY?!



...IS BECAUSE
YOU SLEPT
WITH
KURENO.

THE REASON
I SLEPT
WITH THAT
WOMAN...

DON'T
YOU GET
IT?



...I WANT TO
SPOIL HER
ROTTEN. "

"I LOVE
AKITO."

"THEN
AND
NOW."

I'M
SPECIAL!

"I
LOVE
HER."

I'M FREE
TO DO
WHATEVER I
WANT WITH
MY ZODIAC!

I CAN DO
ANYTHING
I WANT!

"I LOVE
HER SO
MUCH..."

DON'T
MAKE THIS
MY FAULT!

"DON'T
MIS-
UNDER-
STAND,
KURENO."



WHAT?

WHAT
DO
YOU...

ARE YOU
SAYING
THIS IS MY
FAULT?!

I DIDN'T DO
ANYTHING
WRONG!



WE'LL
JUST KEEP
REPEATING
THE SAME
THINGS
THAT WE
ALWAYS DO.

.....

IF
YOU DON'T
UNDER-
STAND...

THEN
LET'S
STOP
TALKING
ABOUT
THIS.

THAT'LL
ONLY MAKE
YOUR MOOD
WORSE.

I'LL GO
HOME
FOR
TODAY.

.....
!!

*"I WANT TO
TRAMPLE HER
TO A PULP."*



—
...

FOR SOMEONE
WHO'S
DENIED HER
"WOMANHOOD"...

...YOU SURE
DO RESORT...

...TO
USING IT
QUICKLY.

"I'LL
BE
HERE."



"I'LL
BE
HERE."



FOR
ETER-
NITY
...

...I'LL
BE
HERE.

I'M
ALWAYS
THINKING
OF YOU.

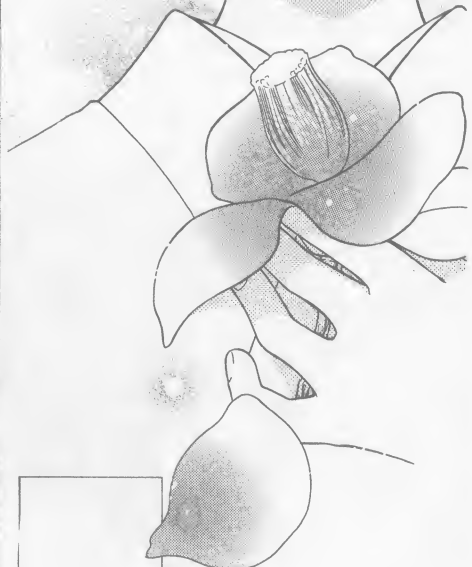
I
MISSED
YOU.



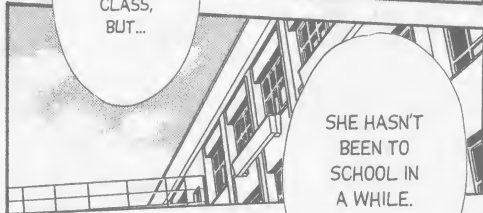
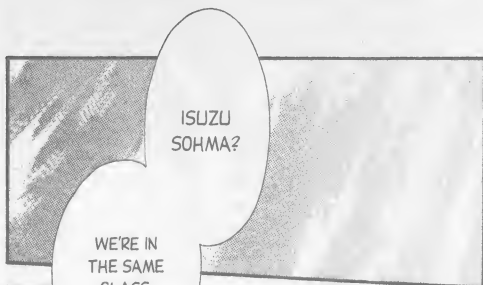
*YOU JUST
DON'T
REALIZE IT.*



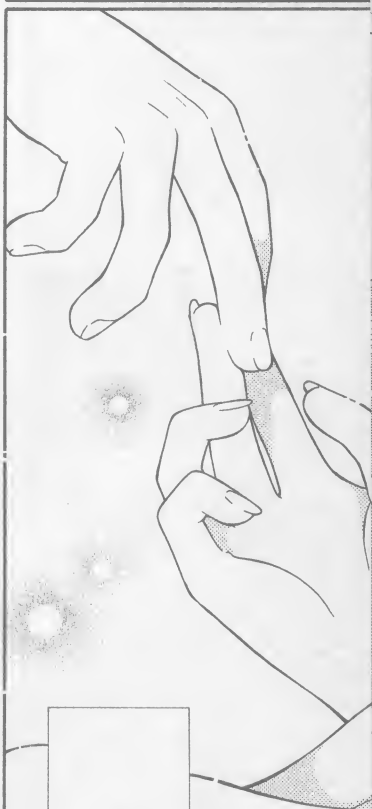
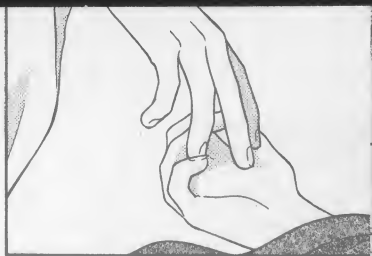
*JUST LIKE
THAT DAY.*



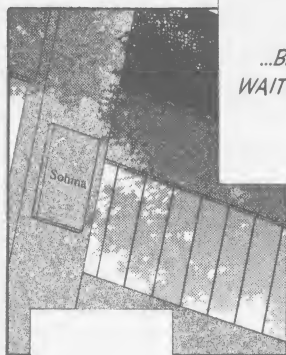
*I'LL
ALWAYS
BE HERE.*



What?
Come on!



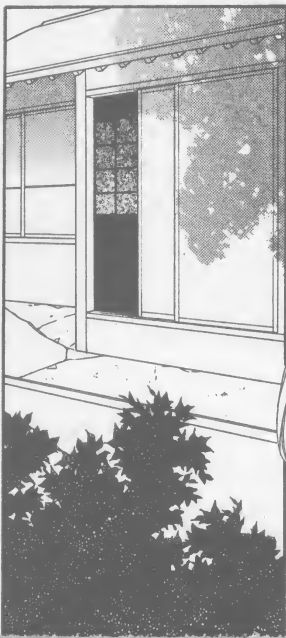
I'M
WAITING.



...BE
WAITING.



RIGHT
HERE.



HEY, IS SOHMA-
SAN GONNA
BE ABLE TO
GRADUATE?

I...I SEE.
THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH.

I'M SURE HER
FAMILY'LL
PAY THE
SCHOOL WHEN
THE TIME
COMES.

ANYWAY, DO
YOU THINK
THAT GIRL
IS SOHMA-
SAN'S
FRIEND?

SHE'S GOT
A FRIEND?
NO WAY!



You're
awful!
Ha ha!

I'LL
ALWAYS...

I'LL BE
WAITING...

...FOR
YOU.



To Be Continued in Volume 18...

*I feel so
grateful!!*
♡

...She says.

Harada-sama, Araki-sama,
Mother-sama, Editor-sama

And everyone who reads and
supports this manga.

Next is the one whom I feel is now
completely recognized as "Kyo's father."

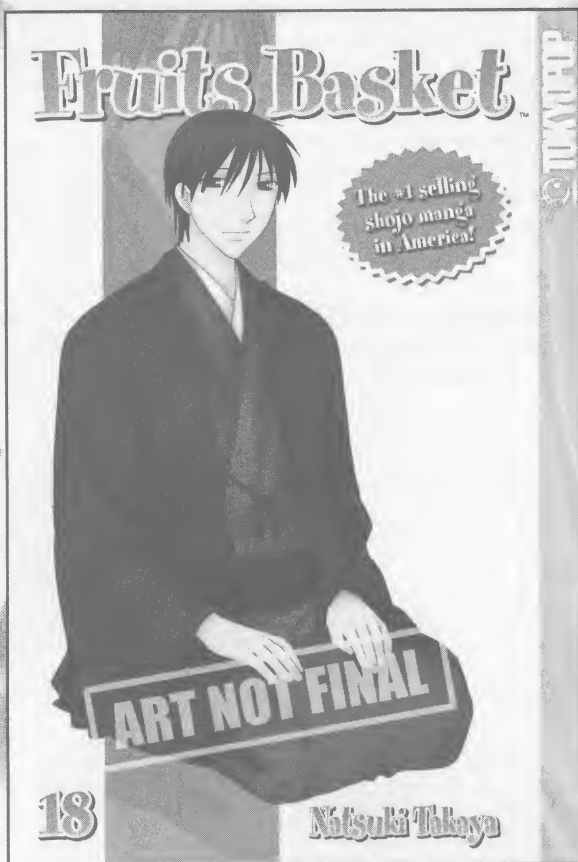
This has been...

高屋 奈月 でいたろ
Natsuki Takaya.





Next time in...



Everyone knows Rin is in the hospital...or is she? While Hatsuharu searches for Isuzu, he discovers that Isuzu had planned to swipe an item from Akito... an item that might just allow her to break the curse! So, what has actually happened to Rin? Read Fruits Basket 18 to find out!

Fruits Basket Volume 18
Available November 2007

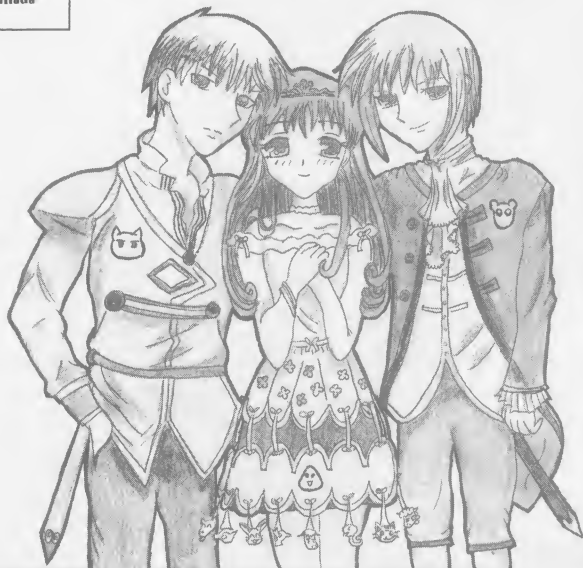
Fans Basket

Wow! Volume 17 sure had some shockers, huh? How many of you were suspicious of Akito, I wonder? I'd really like to see some drawings of Akito as a woman, in her true gender! As usual, I have a never-ending mountain of "Fans Basket" mail to dig through... If your art gets picked, it's pretty much just the luck of the draw! But I honestly do read everything you send, and even if it's not ever printed, it probably put a smile on my face. So thanks! Okay, so let's see what's been chosen for this volume!

Oh! And don't stop reading after you've seen all the fan art! Thanks to TOKYOPOP copy editor Stephanie Duchin, we have a Furuba-themed "Cosplay Special" at the end of this volume! Enjoy!

- Paul Morrissey, Editor

Navy H.
Age 16
Calgary, Canada



6/27/06

Take a really close look at Tohru's skirt... What a fun way to include the other *Fruits Basket* characters in your piece, Navy! I also really like the badges worn by Yuki and Kyo!



Excellent pen and ink work, Barrie.
Your flowers look amazing! Thanks
for being such a great fan!

Barrie Thomas
Age 19
Menifee, CA



Sarah Tekawa
Age 12
San Lorenzo, CA

Sarah would like
everyone to know
that she was 11 when
she drew this. That's
very impressive!
I hope you're still
drawing, Sarah. You
have a lot of talent.